

Cannabis is currently consumed by many Australians illegally for recreational and medicinal purposes, across Australia. It was made illegal in 1938 to comply with a heavily United States influenced Geneva Convention on Drugs which included Cannabis as a narcotic with no medicinal value. Contrary to this classification many patents are held world wide for various treatments using Cannabis and extracts, including one by the United States government for the treatment of cancer.

Given the many health benefits associated with the consumption of Cannabis, the prophylactic effect it has on cancer, it's low addiction rate, and pain free withdrawal, the myth of it being a gateway drug by use is fast evaporating. It's the fact that the user must associate with a criminal element, offering other options when Cannabis is not available, that it could be said to have a gateway effect, but this is a direct result of prohibition.

The revenues generated by heavily taxing this comparably safe drug would be huge. This money would be taken away from the hands of the criminals, and used for whatever the Australian public need it for, rather than funding organised crime. Cannabis could be controlled like Alcohol or Cigarettes are restricting use location by method, that is to say edibles could be consumed legally everywhere, where as the smoking locations of Cannabis could be restricted for others comfort. It could be sold as Cigarettes are or more likely in specialty shops like Alcohol. This would save the many users of recreational Cannabis the risks associated with dealing with a criminal element.

With industrial and medicinal Cannabis an almost certain future, it only makes sense to legalise and control it for recreational use as well. Uruguay, Colorado and Washington are leading the charge, and have reported no social repercussions from the legalisation of recreational Cannabis, medicinal states in the US reporting a 10% drop in the suicide rate proving that it lifts the population's mood. Give us our adult right to choose, if legalised this drug is not a social problem.

Denying the nation the benefits of this miracle plant for the sake of disproven rhetoric, or because Cannabis induces a mild euphoria (which is the point of its recreational consumption), is petty bordering on nasty. Become informed of the facts, grow it or commission it, regulate and tax it, reap the rewards and make the nation happier and healthier, its a win/win for us all. Give us our freedom!