

Public consultation for the National Disability Employment Strategy – Online submission

Your submission

Comment

I have been on DSP since 2001. Before that I was a Medical Doctor. I was dismissed as disabled while suffering from a suicidal psychosis from Effexor XR, a medication which has had to warn consumers re this consequence, and I understand from conversations at Centerlink while applying for Commonwealth Rehab, that others on same medication from same psychiatrist had been noticed by attending staff. Yet we see more money for more mind altering medications while the rates of mental illness on the DSP increase.

This is particularly true in those with PTSD given Benzodiazepines and other psychiatric medication readily as we see as comments wrt Royal Commission into

Attachments

https://engage.dss.gov.au/national-disability-employment-strategy/public-consultation-for-the-national-disability-employment-strategy-online-submission/#gf_153

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Veteran prescribed benzodiazepines for PTSD wants royal commission to probe drug addiction

By state political reporter [Richard Willingham](#)

Posted Mon 26 Apr 2021 at 7:23am, updated Mon 26 Apr 2021 at 3:11pm

David Hill is trying anything and everything, even illegal cannabis oil, to tackle post-traumatic stress disorder, a result of two tours of Afghanistan as an Australian soldier.

His efforts include equine therapy, but no longer involve benzodiazepines, a mild form of tranquilisers used to help sleep and calm anxiety.

He said the group of drugs known as 'benzos' made his struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) harder, as he became dependent on the medication.

He was prescribed the medication but at his worst he was taking 50 pills a day.

"They were good for keeping me regulated and keeping me numb,"

Key points:

- Mr Hill became addicted to the benzodiazepines he was prescribed to treat his PTSD
- He wants the veteran suicide royal commission to examine their use, a move backed by experts
- Independent senator Jacqui Lambie wants the inquiry to look at alternative treatments, including

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-26/veteran-suicide-royal-commission-drug-addiction/100092922>

DSS Public Consultation into Disability Employment Strategy.

AS above I am a Medical Doctor who has had over 20 years of failed medical therapy for PTSD, so the BVeterans Royal Commission into Suicide and Medication only strengthens my call for there to be a review of over medicalization for psychosocial problems.

And the demonization of those who prefer medical Cannabis for PTSD.

My (mis)Treating Psychiatrists still pushing me onto benzodiazepines and other chemicals with suicidality listed as common in full prescribing information, eg aripiprazole.



What are you looking for?

November 10 2020 Finding No. 8566 Topic: Press Release Country: Australia

New data from Roy Morgan shows over 8.5 million Australians aged 14+ (40.5%) reported suffering from a Mental Health condition during the nation-wide lockdown in the June quarter 2020, up from 7.7 million (37.7%) in the March quarter 2020 – an increase of around 800,000.

Anxiety was the most common Mental Health condition experienced by 5.5 million Australians (26.3%) in the lockdown period, up sharply by over 1.1 million Australians from the 4.4 million (20.9%) reporting suffering from anxiety in the pre COVID-19 period during the March quarter.

Interestingly the second most common Mental Health condition, Stress, increased only marginally during the lockdown period reported by 5.4 million Australians (25.5%), up from 5.3 million (25.0%) in the pre-COVID-19 period.

Of great concern is that there was a sharp rise in Australians suffering from depression during the lockdown period reported by over 3.8 million Australians (18.2%), up around 500,000 from 3.3 million (15.9%) earlier in the year.

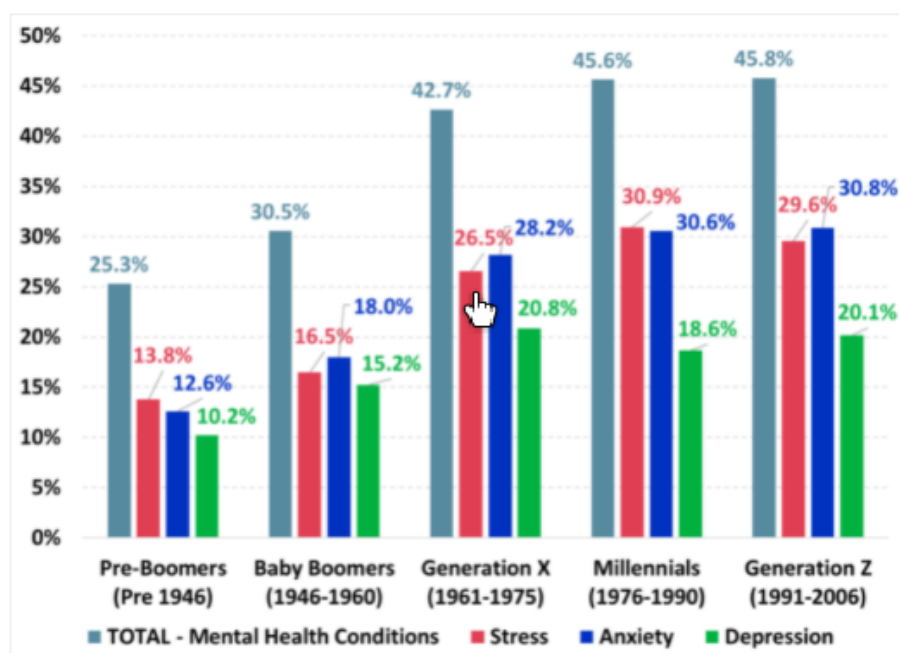


What are you looking for?

In Findings

There was a significantly lower prevalence of Mental Health conditions among older generations with under a third of Baby Boomers (30.5%) and around a quarter of Pre-Boomers (25.3%) reporting experiencing a Mental Health condition during the period of the nation-wide lockdown.

Leading Mental Health conditions by generation – June quarter 2020 (nation-wide lockdown)



Source: Roy Morgan Single Source Australia, April – June 2020, n=17,260. Base: Australians 14+.

Michele Levine, CEO, Roy Morgan, says the nation-wide lockdown in the June quarter 2020 led to spikes in Mental Health conditions – particularly Anxiety and Depression:

<http://www.roymorgan.com/findings/8566-australian-mental-health-conditions-covid-19-pandemic-november-2020-202011090621>

Note almost every second young person has (chronic) anxiety, yet medical anxiolytics, ie benzodiazepines are unable to be used long term due to addiction and cognitive decline, where as antidepressants also increase suicide especially in the young, yet are also used to medicate anxiety due to no other safe r effects medical therapy.

Many patients underestimate the degree of impairment caused by **benzodiazepines**. 8 **Benzodiazepines** increase the **risk** of addiction, withdrawal, cognitive decline, motor vehicle crashes, and hip fracture. The **risk** of overdose is particularly great when combined with sedative drugs such as opioids or alcohol. 15 Aug 2013

<https://www.aafp.org> > aafp

Risks Associated with Long-Term Benzodiazepine Use ...

<https://adf.org.au> > drug-facts > benzodiazepines ▼

Benzodiazepines - Alcohol and Drug Foundation

3 May 2021 — They can also be used to treat alcohol withdrawal and epilepsy. However, medical professionals have become concerned about their **risks**, ...

<https://www.nps.org.au> > news > benzodiazepine-depen... ▼

Benzodiazepine dependence: reduce the risk - NPS ...

Continued use of **benzodiazepines** contributes to a significant **risk** of dependence and abuse. These drugs are commonly implicated in overdose incidents and in ...

<https://americanaddictioncenters.org> > benzodiazepine ▼

Do Benzodiazepines Cause Mental or Physical Harm?

4 Feb 2020 — People who abuse these medications and take huge doses for long periods can experience a variety of physical health issues, including the **risk** ...

<https://www.google.com/search?q=benzodiazepine+risks&oq=benzodiazepine+risk&aqs=chrome.0.0j69i57j0l2j0i22i30l6.6120j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>



SSRI suicide under 18



[https://www.tga.gov.au > sites > default > files > a...](https://www.tga.gov.au/sites/default/files/a...) PDF

Antidepressant utilisation and risk of suicide in young people ...

3 Dec 2020 — With the exception of these approved indications for the treatment of OCD, use of antidepressants in individuals under the age of 18 is considered ...

[https://www.nps.org.au > australian-prescriber > articles](https://www.nps.org.au/australian-prescriber/articles) ▼

Suicide and antidepressants in children - Australian Prescriber

by JN Jureidini · Cited by 4 — Although selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) have not been approved for use in children under 18 years old, they are widely used in general practice ...

[https://www.racgp.org.au > afpbackissues](https://www.racgp.org.au/afpbackissues) ▼ PDF

When should GPs prescribe SSRIs for adolescent ... - RACGP

by L Rowe · Cited by 16 — patients by GPs is generally reported to be ... inhibitors (SSRIs) may precipitate suicidal ... of SSRI treatment in the under 18 years age group.

[https://www.frontiersin.org > fpsyt.2020.00478 > full](https://www.frontiersin.org/fpsy.2020.00478/full) ▼

Antidepressant Prescribing and Suicide/Self-Harm ... - Frontiers

by M Whitely · 2020 · Cited by 4 — ... box warning that antidepressants were associated with an increased risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviours in people aged under 18 years.

[https://headspace.org.au > Uploads > ssri-v2-pdf](https://headspace.org.au/uploads/ssri-v2-pdf) ▼ PDF

Using SSRI Antidepressants and Other Newer ... - Headspace

https://www.google.com/search?q=SSRI+suicide+under+18+&sxsrf=ALeKk00MkIOd21KGgorRGimbhjBLq5yCHQ%3A1621123327590&ei=_2CgYLTEI8Lt9QOyp6agAg&oq=SSRI+suicide+under+18+&gs_lcp=Cgdnd3Mtd2l6EAM6BwgAEcQsAM6BAgjECc6AggAOgYIABAWEB46BwgjEOoCECc6BQgAEJECOGUIABCxAzoICAAQsQMogwE6BwgAELEDEEM6CAgAEL EDEJECOGQIABBDogcIABCHAhAUOgUIIRCgAVCh9QVY8d8GYLnIBmgDcAJ4BIABhAOI AetDkgEIMC43LjlyLjaYAQCgAQGgAQdnd3Mtd2l6sAEKyAEIwAEB&scient=gws-wiz&ved=0ahUKEwj0v8-A88zwAhXCdn0KHbKTCSQQ4dUDCA4&uact=5

It seems almost psychotic to me that the Psychiatrists pushing pills known to cause physical and mental decline are so especially against the use of a safer and more effective (for PTSD), herbal remedy for PTSD.



cannabis for ptsd



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Scholarly articles for **cannabis for ptsd**

... evaluated for the New Mexico Medical **Cannabis** ... - Greer - Cited by 124

... of medical **cannabis** use among those with **PTSD** - Bonn-Miller - Cited by 156

PTSD contributes to teen and young adult **cannabis** ... - Cornelius - Cited by 94

[https://www.forbes.com > sites > 2020/09/17 > new-rese...](https://www.forbes.com/sites/2020/09/17/new-rese...)

New Research Reveals Why Cannabis Helps PTSD Sufferers

17 Sept 2020 — Two recent studies point to the way that cannabinoids may help treat **PTSD**.

One shows how **cannabis** can reduce activity in the amygdala - a part ...



cannabis for ptsd



[https://www.forbes.com > sites > 2020/12/22 > ptsd-suff...](https://www.forbes.com/sites/2020/12/22/ptsd-suff...)

PTSD Sufferers Who Used Cannabis Were 2.5 Times More ...

22 Dec 2020 — The researchers found that **PTSD** sufferers who used **cannabis** not only saw greater reductions in their **PTSD** symptoms, but they were 2.57 times ...

You visited this page on 3/05/21.

[https://www.medicalnewstoday.com > articles > cbd-for...](https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/cbd-for...)

CBD for PTSD: How it works and what to know

22 Sept 2020 — Cannabidiol (**CBD**) is one of the active compounds from the **cannabis** plant. It may help reduce and manage symptoms of **post-traumatic stress** ...

[https://www.dva.gov.au > ... > On the record](https://www.dva.gov.au/...>On%20the%20record)

Response to ABC - Cannabis as a treatment for PTSD ...

24 Apr 2020 — There is currently limited evidence supporting the use of medicinal **cannabis** as an effective treatment for mental health conditions, including for ...

[https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov > articles > PMC6397040](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6397040)

Cannabis: A potential efficacious intervention for PTSD or ...

by A Abizaid · 2019 · Cited by 8 — In addition to potentially reducing **PTSD** symptoms, **cannabis** also mitigates the propensity for inflammation and may be useful in psychological conditions that ...

<https://www.google.com/search?q=cannabis+for+ptsd&oq=Cannabis+for+PTSD&aqs=chrome..69l69j0l4j0i22i30l6.5365j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

Sadly many of the people who enter the criminal justice or mental illness system may do so due to stimulation and disinhibition from psychiatric medications that is SSRI and Benzodiazepines.







Worse still as in the Case of Zac Styles a Veteran Sniper from Afghanistan, I met during my last hospitalization G Floor RBWH March 2021, on stopping Lexapro, he self medicated lexapro withdrawal rage with valium and alcohol and ended up armed up in hostile stand off with Police before prolonger psychiatric hospitalization.

How many other so called psychotic episodes are medication induced but blamed on consumers, like myself and Zac?

ESpecially those who would otherwise use cannabis for Anxiety and Depression from (milder PTSD), and not end up in the Psychiatric drug spiral.

I note Canberra has not had adverse effects from Legalising Cannabis.

← → ↺ 🏠 abc.net.au/news/2021-01-31/what-has-changed-since-cannabis-was-legalised-in-the-act/13105636

 SURVEILLANCE DE...  Historical Timeline -...  Biomolecules | Free...  An overview about...  Oxidative stress in...  E

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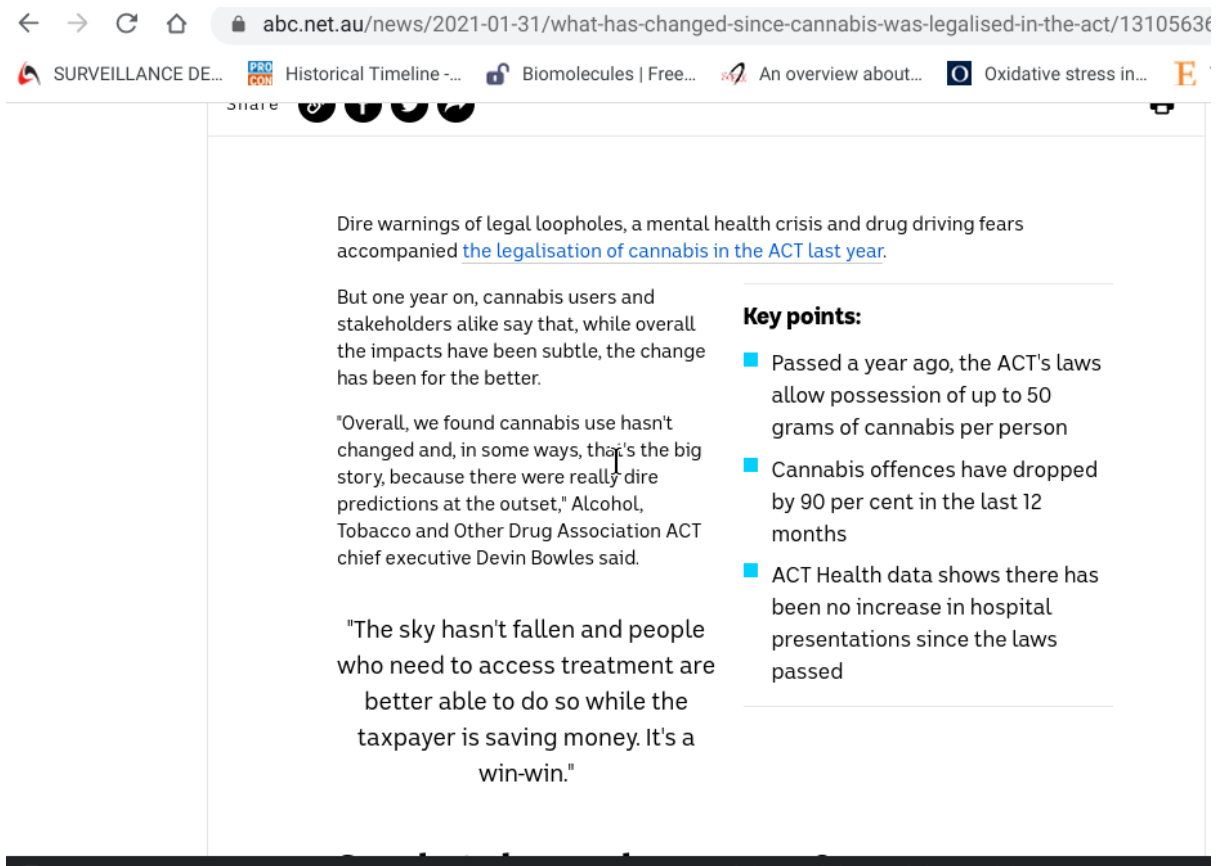
ANALYSIS

What has changed in the year since cannabis possession was legalised in the ACT?

By [Michael Inman](#)

Posted Sun 31 Jan 2021 at 8:18am, updated Sun 31 Jan 2021 at 8:55am





<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-01-31/what-has-changed-since-cannabis-was-legalised-in-the-act/13105636#:~:text=The%20legislation%20changed%20the%20laws,cannabis%20in%20your%20own%20home.>

I also believe that Legal Cannabis hubs could be popular as youth employers especially the mentally ill and otherwise outcast who may cause otherwise additional costs in the mental health or justice system which exceeds \$1000 a night.

I'd also like to say that the whole wellness industry is being stifled by Medical Dominance in healthcare and that if we spent more money on scientifically proven forms of wellness, especially treating diet induced oxidative stress through more wellness type healthcare vs medication type healthcare, there may be more personal responsibility and less chronic illness.

This is especially true for chronic fatigue and muscle wasting as well as mental illness.

oxidative stress chronic illness



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Scholarly articles for oxidative stress chronic illness

Oxidative stress in severe acute illness - Bar-Or - Cited by 154

Chronic fatigue syndrome: oxidative stress and dietary ... - Logan - Cited by 198

Oxidative stress, chronic disease, and muscle wasting - Moylan - Cited by 347

Underlying the pathogenesis of **chronic disease** is the state of **oxidative stress**. **Oxidative stress** is an imbalance in oxidant and antioxidant levels. If an overproduction of oxidants overwhelms the antioxidant defenses, **oxidative damage** of cells, tissues, and organs ensues.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov> > ...

Oxidative stress, chronic disease, and muscle wasting - PubMed

oxidative stress mental illness



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About 2,070,000 results (0.47 seconds)

Scholarly articles for oxidative stress mental illness

Oxidative stress and psychological disorders - Salim - Cited by 256

... the hippocampus of patients with major **mental illness** - Che - Cited by 138

Oxidative stress and **schizophrenia**: recent ... - Emiliani - Cited by 154

Several investigators have suggested a link between **oxidative stress** and certain anxiety **disorders** [obsessive-compulsive **disorder** and panic **disorder**], demonstrating that **oxidative** metabolism, can affect the regulation of anxiety.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3964745>

Oxidative Stress and Psychological Disorders - NCBI - NIH

About featured snippets • Feedback

I have an extensive literature review on this topic but it exceeds the 5 MB limit of files which can be attached.

In Summary I think there should be more health in healthcare and less debilitating drugging and psychiatric labelling especially with PTSD , related anxiety and depression, and this

monopoly is harming people who are mistreated and end up psychotic and suicidal, thus incapable of being seen as able in society.

Other benefits are revenue

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Tax Foundation website. The address bar shows the URL: taxfoundation.org/recreational-marijuana-tax-revenue-by-state/. The page features a blue header with the Tax Foundation logo and navigation links for Federal Taxes, State Taxes, Global Taxes, Blog, and Tax Basics. The main article title is "Several States Considering Legal Recreational Marijuana", dated January 13, 2021, by Ulrik Boesen. The article text discusses how the coronavirus pandemic has led some states to consider recreational marijuana legalization to raise revenue. It lists several states (Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin) that are advocating for legalization, noting that new revenue is crucial due to budget shortfalls. It also mentions that four states passed ballot measures to legalize marijuana on Election Day 2020 and that the federal government is likely to continue discussions on federal legislation.

Several States Considering Legal Recreational Marijuana

January 13, 2021

Ulrik Boesen

With most states experiencing reduced tax revenues due to the [coronavirus](#) pandemic, several are contemplating whether recreational marijuana legalization and taxation may be one avenue to raise new revenue. While states that have already legalized do raise meaningful revenue, lawmakers should remember that establishment of legal markets takes time.

In Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin, lawmakers are advocating legalization—generally arguing that new revenue is crucial due to budget shortfalls. This list is in addition to the [four states](#) where voters passed ballot measures to legalize marijuana on Election Day 2020. Furthermore, the federal government is likely to continue discussions over federal legislation.

<https://taxfoundation.org/recreational-marijuana-tax-revenue-by-state/>

And employment.



how many jobs in legal cannabis



<https://www.businesswire.com> > news > home > Report-... ▾

Report: Legal Cannabis Industry Now Supports 321,000 Full ...

16 Feb 2021 — **Legal Cannabis** Industry Now Supports 321000 Full-Time American **Jobs**, Doubling in Size Since 2018.

<https://www.leafly.com> > news > industry > 243700-ma... ▾

2020 Cannabis Jobs Report: Legal cannabis now supports ...

7 Feb 2020 — 2020 **Cannabis Jobs** Report: **Legal** cannabis now supports 243,700 full-time American **jobs** ... **How many jobs** are there in the **legal marijuana** ...

<https://www.forbes.com> > kevinmurphy > 2019/05/20 ▾

Cannabis Is Becoming A Huge Job Creator - Forbes

20 May 2019 — **Cannabis** is creating thousands of high-paying **jobs**, making it a **job-growth** ... Even though **cannabis** use in some form is **legal** in only two-thirds of the ... **marijuana** industry ramped up, Florida added the most **jobs** of **any** state ...

<https://www.thebalancecareers.com> > ... > Best Jobs ▾

10 Jobs in the Legal Marijuana Industry - The Balance Careers

Ready to take your skills to a growing field? There's almost certainly a **marijuana job** out there for you. Some are universal to **many** industries, e.g., delivery person ...
