



17 December 2023

Drug Driving Review Team
Department of Transport and Main Roads
PO Box 673
Fortitude Valley Qld 4006

Re: Cannabis and driving in Queensland

To whom it may concern,

About Us

[Harm Reduction Australia \(HRA\)](#) is a national organisation for individuals committed to reducing the health, social and economic harms potentially associated with both drug use and drug policy approaches. HRA was formed in 2015 by a group of professionals concerned about drug policy in Australia.

Under the auspices of Harm Reduction Australia, [Drive Change](#) is a national law reform campaign to amend the driving laws giving patients on prescribed medicinal cannabis the same rights as all other patients.

Both HRA and Drive Change welcome the opportunity to comment and address the questions in the Consultation Paper, and we would be pleased to provide further advice should the Department of Transport and Main Roads (Queensland) consider this useful.

Zero-tolerance approach to drug driving

Medicinal cannabis products have been legal since 2017. Still, drug driving laws throughout all Australian states and territories, including Queensland, are constructed so that medical cannabis patients consuming a dose of medication that is *too low to cause impairment*, remain vulnerable to unjust and outdated laws with life-changing penalties.

More than half of the total number of patients prescribed for medicinal cannabis are from Queensland (close to 153,000) and it is crucial for the Department of Transport and Main Roads to review its zero-tolerance approach to drug driving and the impact this has on Queensland patients.

Recommendation: Drug driving laws shift away from a zero-tolerance and drug detection approach (ie. testing for the impairment, as opposed to presence).



www.harmreductionaustralia.org.au
www.drivechangemc.org.au



