



Hon Dr Nick Smith

Member of Parliament for Nelson

Gregory Soar
fyi-request-4208-a0e83292@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Soar,

Thank you for your email of 2 July 2016 requesting the following information:

"1. Please supply the cannabis informations you have that lead you to make your statement as above and hold the view you do in regard medicinal cannabis."

As Member of Parliament for Nelson I am not subject to the Official Information Act.

The evidence for my views is both life experience through my constituency work and medical research. I have dealt with hundreds of Nelson families dealing with the medical disorders caused by cannabis. To quote the April NZ Medical Journal (Vol 129, No 1433) "Cannabis is well evidenced to increase rates of psychosis and other psychological problems."

I do not accept the rhetoric that cannabis is harmless because it is natural. Alcohol, tobacco and opium are also all natural, but cause enormous harm and loss of life.

I am not totally opposed to reform. I am cautious for the reasons above and want to ensure that change only occurs if based on the very best science and health advice.

Kind regards,

Hon Dr Nick Smith
Member of Parliament for Nelson