# We probably don't want Rec

And why our Medical scheme with Decrim is probably a better option

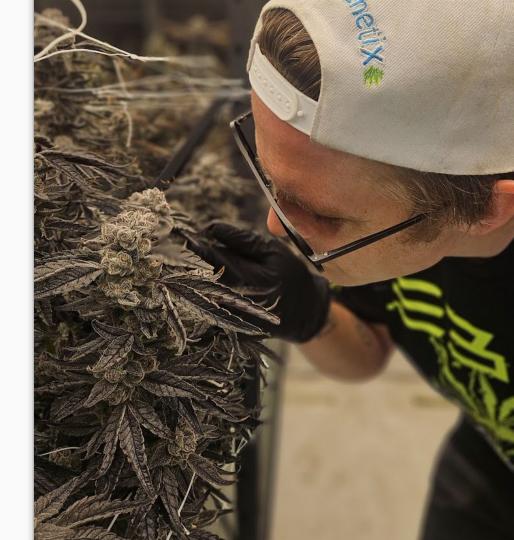
## Kia ora, I'm Josiah

But everyone just calls me Jo, or Chill.

I've been a legacy cultivator since 2020, commercially licensed since 2022, and a regulatory consultant since 2023.

I help small to medium startups navigate their way through the hoops of getting a Medicinal Cannabis licence, usually for Cultivation but also Supply.

I'm an advocate for decrim, home-grows, but also for following the rules and regulations as they are at present despite how much we'd all tweak them in some way.



## How it's laid out

There are two columns, one for the proposed (rejected) Cannabis Legalisation & Control Bill 2020. The other side is our Medicinal Cannabis Scheme.

Bullet points are laid out side-by-side, horizontally aligned for easy comparison.

Each bullet-point is colored based on which side is the most restrictive / permissive, with red being strictest, orange a tie, and green most permissive.

Although our current scheme is far from perfect, this should highlight how much better it is (by and large) than the common cry "give me adult-use Rec".

## Possession

## **Proposed legalization**

- Up to 14g on your person in-public.
- Can have up to two plants per-adult or up to 4 plants per-household.
- Up to 14g may be purchased per-day, possibly requiring multiple trips per-week for some users in-person.

- Uncapped amount on your person in-public.
- No home cultivation is permitted under the Medicinal scheme.
- Uncapped "daily" purchase limit, can be prescribed a months worth of product and dispensed all at once, couriered or in-person.

## Obtaining cannabis

## **Proposed legalization**

- Must be purchased from an approved and licensed business.
- Must be purchased in-person.
- Sharing with friends up to 14g per-day but cannot be sold to them.
- Not permitted to be shipped through mail.

- Must be obtained through prescription from a doctor / clinic.
- Can be ordered either in-person or online.
- Sharing constitutes "Dealing in controlled drugs" and is not permitted.
- Most prescriptions are couriered.

## Product restrictions

## **Proposed legalization**

- Must be < 15% THC for home-grows.
- Commercial products THC limit to be set by a Cannabis Regulatory Authority.
- Limits to type of product (eating / vaping).
- Packages may not contain more than 14g of dried flower.
- Approval needed for all products pre-sale.

- Home-grows are not permitted.
- No limit to the potency of the active ingredient in NZMQS verified medicines.
- Many options from Ph.Eur 11th Ed.
- Uncapped weight limit for individual pack size, with 30g bags being common.
- Approval needed for all products pre-sale.

## Taxes / fees

## **Proposed legalization**

- Excise tax per-gram, higher tax for higher active ingredient levels, handled at retail.
- Additional "harm reduction" levy set per-product.
- Monthly / annual licensing fees for operating a business, varying based on semi-regular reviews from a Cannabis Regulatory Authority, likely to be 10s of thousands of dollars, if not hundreds.

- No additional tax on any product outside of the usual GST.
- No additional levies on any NZMQS verified products.
- Annual licence fee of approx \$8.3k for a Cultivation licence, with the scheme operating on a "cost recovery" basis meaning minimal fees for both annual licensing and / or product registration.

## Consumption

## **Proposed legalization**

- Cannot be consumed in-public.
- Cannot be consumed in regular designated smoking areas.
- Illegal to expose anybody under the age of 20 to second-hand smoke or vape.
- Authority directive is to decrease consumption over time.

- May be consumed in-public.
- Can be consumed in regular designated smoking areas.
- Under 20s may also be prescribed their own cannabis in some situations.
- No legislatively defined directive regarding product consumption.

## Businesses

## **Proposed legalization**

- Public consultation required for any and all businesses being set up in the area, similar to alcohol stores.
- Licenses required for consumption lounges and any other retail businesses.
- Restrictions on advertising both business and products.

- No consultation required with the public when setting up a location with a Medicinal Cannabis License Activity specified.
- No license required for a consumption lounge. All pharmacies may dispense etc.
- Business as a whole may be advertised, specific products cannot.

# "This is why we continue to advocate for decriminalization, and for home-grows. It's the best of both worlds."

- Josiah, Chill Division