

To Whom it may concern,

I'm sorry about being late in my submission of the following article - I will list ALL THE FACTs with no exaggeration as I know them. However, what relates to me, may be different to another person.

I started work in February 1974 & continued to be employed most of that time until my medical retirement as a train driver in 1997. (NSW Railway 1980 - 1997)

They say that on the pain scale - you jump off the bridge & end it all when the pain level reaches 10. (For those who can move)

In 1999, *my right hip that had been repaired at the age of 15 in 1973*, suddenly snapped & because I was no longer working, I was unable to have it replaced. *(The Doctors told me to hang on as long as I could because of my age.)* My pain level then was only about a 7 on the pain scale at that time.

Fast forward to 2004. By now my pain level had reached a 9.5 & I was largely immobile. However, I could still move slowly with the aid of crutches & with the help of my wife.

In about March 2005, we received a phone call from a farmer in our area. He knew someone who had mentioned us as having lived on a farm for most of our lives & he needed someone to look after his dogs while he & his wife went on holidays for a couple of weeks & would we be interested in helping out?

We drove out to the property & arrived about 1400hrs. My pain level on arrival was about a 9.0. I asked the farmer if he had a couple of Panadol because I had forgotten to take the Ibuprofen that I had been living on. I was told that I could have some Panadol after we checked out the dogs.

We arrived back at the house at about 1500hrs & I was in agony. Once again, I asked for some Panadol. I was given a cup of coffee & an ANZAC biscuit!

I was raised in a family that didn't take drugs. In 1988, I transferred from Ivanhoe to Dubbo so that our daughter could attend the Narromine Christian School where there was very little chance of her being exposed to drugs. In short - I was 100% anti drugs.

Back to the farm house. Because I didn't know what a "Hash Cookie" was at that time, *(I had heard of them but never touched one)* I did not know that I had been slipped a Hash Cookie. After finishing the coffee & the biscuit, I said that I needed to go home & get some pain killers!

I was informed by the farmer that I had just eaten a Hash Cookie at about 1520hrs. I was further given 3 more to take home & was told that if the pain hadn't decreased by 1630hrs, I was to take another half cookie.

1700hrs came around & there was no decrease in the pain level so I took another full cookie!

By 1730hrs, I was sitting cross legged in front of the TV (which was turned off) & I was laughing my head off! More important than that, for the first time in about 5 years, I was 100% pain free!!! No pain what so ever. I can remember running up & down the 12 stairs at my place for the first time that we arrived there in 2001. It was unbelievable to me. *(One thing I must point out though - UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES would I have been safe to operate a vehicle for at least the next 10 hrs)*

Another positive side effect was the fact that for the first time in years, I was able to "urinate" in the loo like a normal person. (*You want facts - here they are even if they may sound crude.*) Possibly due to the side effects of the Ibuprofen & Panadine Forte over the years, when I had to go to the loo, it was "let the loose end dangle & let gravity do it's work." I noticed at about 1900hrs on the day of the first cookies - I could have piddled into a cup at about 8ft away! It was magic. Further more, my vision had improved 100%. I didn't have to use glasses to read a book - until the drug wore off.

I went & told my Dr about what had happened & he marked it on my medical record. (*Dr Steve Murray - Moruya.*) Dr Murray suggested that I cease all hash cookies about 1 month before my hip replacement on the 29th August 2005 at the Sydney Adventist Hospital.

Since my replacement, I haven't touched a cookie. (*or smoked - I'm highly allergic to smoke.*)

I started having problems with my new hip about 3 years ago. Once again, I am currently on Prednisone, Sulfasalazine, Norspan pain patches & 4 Panadol per day. This maintains my pain level at about the 7 level. I admit, if I could afford to get hold of cookies or hemp, I would do so because my life is fully on hold again. I am currently 56yrs old.

Because I get my medications on the PBS, I only pay around \$20 - \$30 per month.

The following are my thoughts only.

I do know that if the Government legalised Marajuana & sold it only through "Chemist like" shops, this may help a little bit but wouldn't control the black market.

If Pharmaceutical companies get involved, this wouldn't help either - people would buy the black market stuff.

However, if everyone who needed this drug paid the Government, say \$30 per year for a permit to grow, much like a fishing licence, this would have a dramatic effect on the Governments expenses.

It would reduce break & enters for people trying to get money for the "Hemp" type of drugs, Pol-Air wouldn't have to fly all over the country looking for drug crops - this equals more Police on the beat & most important, people like me wouldn't have to buy hash cookies on the black market - we could make our own. After all, who is going to buy "Black Market Hemp" if for the sake of a \$30 permit, you can grow it yourself. (*I personally don't know how many plants per person would be needed but that would be easy to find out.*)

For the sake of us people who are in constant pain, please consider what I have written.