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**MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **HEMP TO PARTY LIKE IT'S 1999!**

Leading Cannabis law reform lobby group Help End Marijuana Prohibition (HEMP) are getting political again. Not content with influencing State Elections, HEMP are today launching their foray into Federal Politics at the Nimbin Mardi Grass and Cannabis Law Reform Rally

HEMP Party President and local Nimbin identity, Museum proprietor Michael Baulderstone will today launch the campaign, the first stage of which is the collection of 500 inaugural members. "We're confident we'll get the signatures" said Mr Baulderstone, "HEMP is gonna party like it's 1999" he said.

"All fair minded Australians support the ending of criminal sanctions for simple Cannabis offences. It's time the politicians took their heads out of the sand and realised 1/3 of adults have tried Cannabis. Now all Australians will be able to send a message to Mr Howard - "People who use Cannabis are all around us. They are our brothers and sisters, fathers and mothers, young and old, men and women united. The old lie that Cannabis is somehow more damaging than the prohibition that drives it underground has been debunked by the government's own research." Mr Baulderstone said.

HEMP Party analysts have warned the Government risked losing seats over this. "We'll be targeting the marginal seats, especially those of members who have supported Mr Howard on his "Tough on Rhetoric, er, Drugs" strategy. We've yet to finalise our strategies " Mr Baulderstone said" but well be campaigning high and wide to get the message across" he stated. HEMP believe in regulation the availability of Cannabis. Separating the markets between Cannabis and harder drugs by permitting legal home cultivation and licensed sales will see organised crime gutted; something prohibition has failed abysmally to do.

HEMP are contesting the next Federal Election in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. Other State branches are being organised.

For further information contact Mr Michael Baulderstone on (02) 66891 123

**Help End Marijuana Prohibition**