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MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LIBERAL MOVE SENDS GROWERS INDOORS!

Cannabis law reform lobby group Help End Marijuana Prohibition (HEMP SA) today slammed the Liberals announcement to gazette new regulations to reduce the number of Cannabis plants from 10 to three. The Liberals want to keep the SA public in the dark! Failure to debate this issue in parliament and the community has meant knee jerk reactions based around a deliberate beat-up by some sections of the police.

Police Minister Brokenshire should get off the grass! It the prohibition of cannabis that is the issue, and is far more damaging to the social fabric of this state than the drug itself. Making legal sanctions "tougher" will only worsen the problems he identifies.

Based on the experience of the last twelve months we can predict:

Reducing the number of plants will not reduce supply, as serious growers have already shifted to indoor systems with three plants that produce as much as ten plants!

The problem of "syndicates" will only be enlarged as organized crime responds by simply recruiting more growers doing three (large) plants.

The big plantations will keep going, (especially in NSW & Qld who no doubt appreciate having the heat directed elsewhere, distracting law enforcement onto the mostly cottage industry operators peddling small quantities and away from plantation style crops.)

Outdoor backyard growers will be driven indoors:

Why grow 3 outdoors once a year (not forgetting the snails, mites, rip-offs and busts that do occur) when you can grow three indoors four times a year in safety and security? You choose!"

Mr Brokenshire asks "Surely three plants is plenty" and it is clear they would be if they were legal. When Cannabis production remains criminalised in the hands of the black market it is clear that it is not.

SA Govt research shows only 25% of users grow their own. Fully 3/4 of smokers must score from either friends or the black market – both of whom are currently deemed to have committed serious jailable offences.

Mr Brokenshire said "Ten plants, which Labor and the Democrats are advocating, is setting up a cottage industry for SA." That may be, but better a cottage industry supplying friends and family, than organised crime supplying Cannabis and other harder drugs. The Liberals are sending the wrong message:

Release Ends

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Help End Marijuana Prohibition