

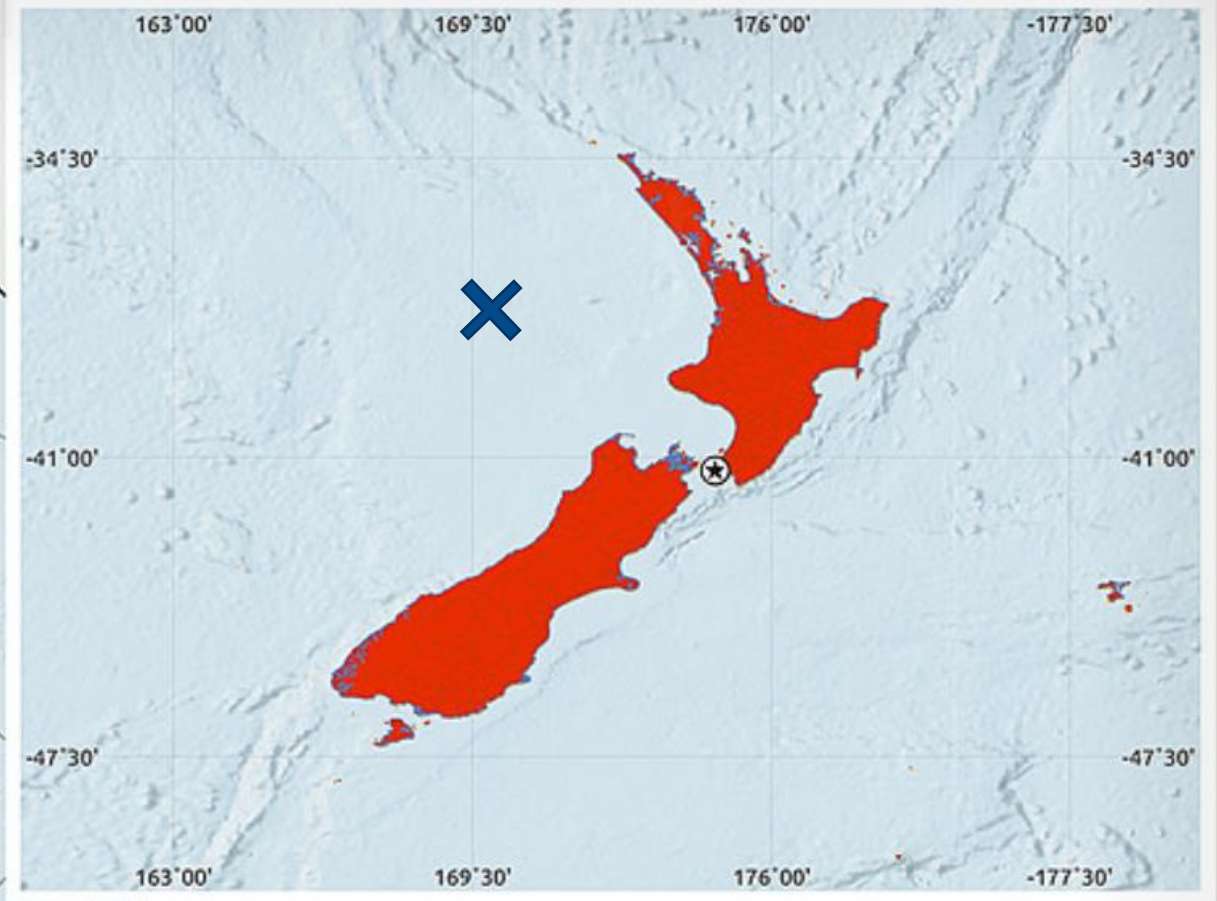
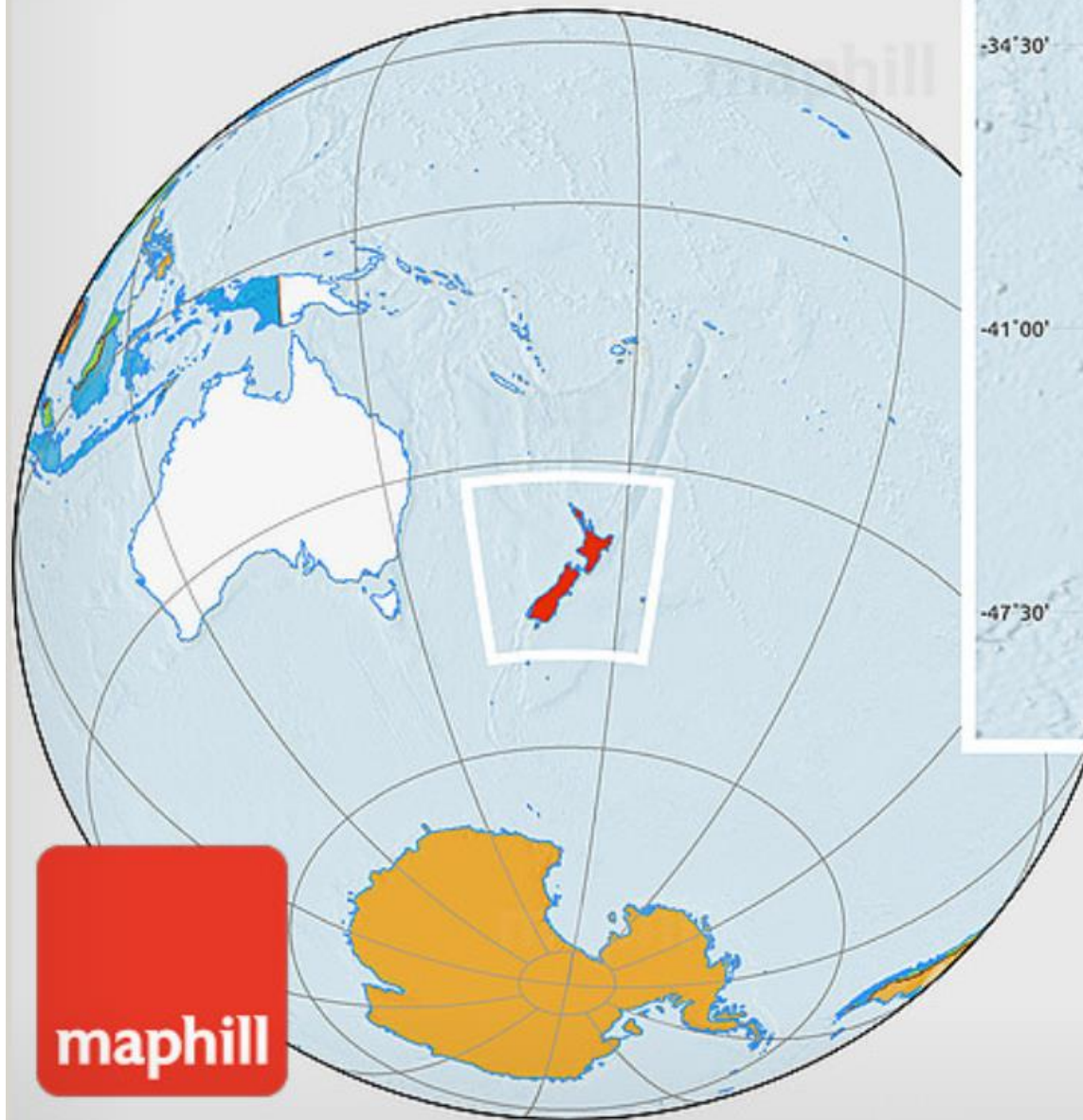
What are the barriers and prospects for establishing Cannabis Social Clubs in Aotearoa New Zealand?

... the history of cannabis activism in NZ

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Population: 5.1 million (50% PT)
x3 Portugal size (km²)
16.5% Maori
GDP: 250 billion US\$

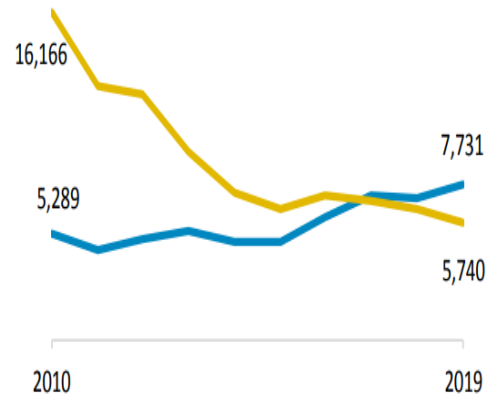


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October 2020

50.7% no
48.4% yes



Charges for cannabis
offences 60% lower

“public interest”



2019 and 2018 MODA amendments



1979



1996



2013



?

Methods:

- *Analysis of published records of NZ CSC*
- *Unstructured interview with the founder of “the first CSC in NZ”*
- *Ongoing research projects: NZDTS and NZMCS*



- *History, motivations, and harm reduction practices of CSC*
- *Barriers to the CSC movement*
- *Opportunities?*

Social supply of cannabis in NZ significant...

65% of past 6-months cannabis users purchased from “friend, partner or family”

21% of past 6-months cannabis users received “all” cannabis for free (NZDTS, 2020)

... but not formal CSC arrangements

...3% of those who use cannabis for medicinal/therapeutic reasons accessed through “informal club/cooperative”

... less than 0.5% identified “club/cooperative” as main supply source (NZMCS, 2019)

19 November 2008



NZ “first CSC” opens in New Lynn

Dakta Green: “secure place where people can get good quality weed at a reasonable price” (*NZ Herald*)

“Live like it’s legal”



Fees and club rules:

R18

Membership fee: \$20/month (12 EUR) or one-off 5 NZD; Membership cards with nicknames

Prices: \$10-20/gram

Cannabis grown in premises at times; sourced from “*trusted black market suppliers*”

BYO cannabis allowed, alcohol prohibited, mixing with tobacco banned

Bongs encouraged, couches, music...

1,500 members by Christmas 2008
2,000 members by January 2009
200-300 patrons a night



March-May 2008; Aug-Nov 2010

“It got **overwhelming**.

By December there would be a hundred or more people queuing at the door.

The purpose was never to become the biggest ‘tinny house’ in the country.

The purpose was **to make sufficient pay our way and to pay our [activism] campaign**”



*“During these talks overwhelmingly I have found that the **not-for profit model** featured in almost every conversation.*

*This is the **only fair way** to move cannabis to the legal market [and] **share equitably** in the community the benefits of legalisation”*

RSA-inspired (est. 1916): 182 ‘clubs’ each an entity in own right with own executive committee

Cannabis vending machine trialled

Steve Hopkins · 08:52, Mar 22 2012



COIN-OPERATED: The cannabis vending machine.

Vending machines normally cure the munchies with shelves laden with chips and chocolates, but one being trialled in West Auckland may well cause them.

New Zealand's first cannabis club, the Daktory, has been using the machine - which sells one gram bags of cannabis for \$20 - at its New Lynn headquarters to avoid any of their members being charged with dealing the Class C drug.

9 January 2010: search warrant and Dakta Green's arrest

Reduced 8 month prison sentence reflecting not-for-profit nature of the club, judge noted:

*"The proceeds were **not being directly towards commercial profits** but rather towards a cause"*

*"to some extent **in a responsible manner** in the sense that young persons were not served and the cannabis was consumed on site"*

Sentence increased on appeal to 1 year and 11 months

June 2012: Permanent closure of Daktory

Cannabis lovers gather at Whangarei Daktory for happy end to 2016

31/12/2016



Ollie Ritchie



A pro-cannabis group in Whangarei is bringing in 2017 by hosting a party at a venue called The Daktory.

The group hopes to eventually change the law around cannabis, but that's brought stiff opposition from a law and order lobby group.

"People need a safe place to come and get their cannabis. they don't really need to be dealing

Whangarei CSC (est. 2016), raided 11 January 2017
Not-for-profit nature not accepted by the sentencing judge

Wellington Daktory 2.0 (est. April 2019):
700 members by June
R18, \$20/month, \$200/year
BYO or purchase up to 5 grams
“vaporisers provided as harm reduction”
After police raids transitioned to BYO only

**Law and police
enforcement**
(... periods of
“tolerance”)

**Media publicity
and promotion**

**Maintaining
neighbor and
community
acquiescence**

**Availability of
cannabis from
other supply
sources**

Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill:

- Grow-your-own: 2 plants, max 4/household
- Social sharing up to 14 grams with 20y.o.+

‘Social equity’ provisions

Additional criteria for (micro)cultivation licenses:

- (1) Representing or partnering with **communities disproportionately affected by harms from cannabis**, including Māori and people from economically deprived areas
- (2) The **generation of social benefit** and building of community partnerships by engagement with individuals, whānau, and communities in the design and deliveries of their activities”
- (3) Employment opportunities (...) for Māori and those from economically deprived areas”

Additional criteria for retail: “prioritising, where practicable, not-for-profit applicants that can **demonstrate the commitment to delivering social benefit to the communities in which the applicant intends to operate**”

Hon Andrew Little
Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill
Exposure Draft for Referendum

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Exposure draft for referendum

1

Comply with all
regulatory (safety,
testing)
requirements...

Extent of priority
given to community
organization
unclear

Ban on vertical
integration on
cannabis licenses
in CLCB

Conclusions:

NZ has a rich history of cannabis activism and high profile CSC

Prohibition of use, possession and supply under MODA prevented CSC survival in the long term

High profile and media visibility drew law enforcement attention → arrests, closures...

Significant less-formal social supply exists...

CLCB did not include specific CSC provisions

‘Social equity’ provisions created a potential space for CSC-like organisations but uncertainties remain...



Thank you.

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- Non-profit associations of cannabis consumers
- **Collective cultivation** for member's own consumption
- **Grassroot** history: 1990s, Spain, unregulated...
- Key elements: consumer agency, harm reduction
- **Uruguay** (2013), **Malta** (Dec 2021) regulations:
 - both require CSC **registration** with national agency
 - maximum **plant limits** (Uruguay: 99; Malta: authorized by ARUC)
 - **product types**: herbal cannabis (+ seeds in Malta), no potency regulations
 - Storage/production limits:
 - Uruguay: 480 grams per member annually
 - Malta: no more than 500 grams of cannabis at any time on premises
 - Access: only registered members (18+; residency); UR: 15-45 members; MT: max 500 members
 - **Quantity limits on supply**:
 - Uruguay: max 40 grams/month
 - Malta: max 7 grams/day; up to 50 grams/month and max 20 seeds/month
 - Location regulation: e.g. 150m (UR) or 250m (MT) from school
 - Advertising prohibited