

Scott Hennessy

From: Charles Casimaty
Sent: Tuesday, 24 April 2012 3:28 PM
To: Scott Hennessy
Subject: FW: Industrial Hemp in Tasmania

From: near and far [mailto:info@nearandfar.com.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 24 April 2012 3:04 PM
To: Charles Casimaty
Subject: Industrial Hemp in Tasmania

Karen Adams

Near and Far

Email info@nearandfar.com.au

30 Mary St. Cygnet Tasmania. 7112

Telephone 03 6295 1085

The Secretary,

Environment, Resources and Development Committee

Dear Charles,

Please accept this submission with regard to the Tasmanian Hemp Industry Inquiry.

Together with my husband, Brett, we have owned and managed a small retail shop 'Near and Far' in Cygnet, Tasmania, for the past 4.5 years. We specialize in fair trade and eco-friendly products. From the very opening we have stocked an extensive range of hemp clothing for men, women and children, accessories such as bags, belts and socks, homewares including bed-linen, tea-towels and cleaning cloths all made from industrial hemp fibre. In addition we stock a wide range of bodycare

products containing hemp seed oil; shampoo, conditioner, body and face lotion, soap, deodorant and healing balm.

Customers of varied backgrounds come specifically to our shop for these products. Many are local from the Huon Valley but others travel quite a distance to obtain these unique products as they appreciate the qualities of the hemp fibre and oil. Then there are travellers from interstate and abroad who will also purchase items. Thus the demand for industrial hemp products is widespread and varied.

Many customers have had an item of hemp clothing before and proceed to tell me how fantastic it was. So comfortable, it breathes, cool in summer and warm in winter, durable and lasts for years. They may then go on to explain the glories of industrial hemp knowing that Hemp can be grown in 2 months, does not require herbicides or pesticides and uses a fraction of water compared to cotton. Hemp can produce 4 times as much pulp per hectare than trees and can produce over 50000 products including; all grades of paper, textiles, cosmetics, food, medicine, fuel, structural reinforcement building materials, composite boards, absorbency products such as kitty litter, potting mix and nappies.

Then there are those people who appreciate the benefits of the hemp seed oil. Hemp seed oil is the most perfectly balanced oil, containing omegas 3,6 and 9 which is part of the reason why it is especially effective at repairing and moisturising our skin. These essential fatty acids (EFA) are absorbed into our skin cells and replenish damaged lipids and repair damaged skin. It has particular success for conditions such as psoriasis and eczema and most other irritations including burns and scars.

Hemp Seed Oil contains some of the highest known levels of EFA in the plant kingdom. These EFA's, so called because we need to consume them, must be sourced externally as it is not produced by the body. In many countries throughout the world, including Northern America and many European countries Hemp seed oil is used not only externally but an ingredient in many highly nutritional foods and as a medicine. Hemp seed oil can help you control your cholesterol level. If your cholesterol is high, hemp seed oil may even help lower it. Omega-3 fatty acids can also decrease platelet stickiness and your risk factor for atherosclerosis or clogged arteries. It also has a natural anti-inflammatory effect that makes them useful for people with arthritis and autoimmune disorders. Yet the Australian government does not permit it as a human food source. Many people are bewildered by this and frustrated at such negativity.

Knowing these facts about the immense benefits and varied uses of both the fibre and seed of industrial hemp many customers then ask:

“So where are all these hemp products that we sell produced? “

My answer, “the textiles come from China, Nepal and Romania, the oil used in the bodycare is from different parts of Australia.”

Next question comes “So why don't we have an industrial hemp industry in Tasmania?

It makes perfect sense. “

- It would provide a viable alternative to the declining forest industry
- An alternate crop for many farmers who are eagerly awaiting approval
- An enormous range of employment possibilities through farming, processing, textile, bodycare and food production
- Put Tasmania on the world map as a sustainable producer – economically and with long term vision and integrity
- Increased availability and presumably more affordable variety of products locally made

In conclusion, if there is a demonstrated obvious demand for products made from the fibre and oil of industrial hemp and the opportunity to benefit so many people why not take advantage of this situation and encourage a viable Industrial Hemp industry in Tasmania.

Your sincerely Karen Adams

Note: Some technical information was supplied by 'Green Hemp Australia' a producer and supplier of Australian hemp seed oil bodycare products. www.greenhemp.com

Near and Far

Email info@nearandfar.com.au

30 Mary St. Cygnet Tasmania. 7112

Telephone 03 6295 1085