



Minister for Health and  
Minister for Ambulance Services  
Member for Woodridge

15 OCT 2015

Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
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Dear Mr Laurie

Neil,

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 2422-15, tabled in Parliament on 15 September 2015, in relation to the use of medicinal cannabis and the amendment of section 270A of the *Health (Drugs & Poisons) Regulation 1996*.

I acknowledge the petitioner's concerns about the suffering of people with severe and terminal illness and their desire to find alternative treatments. I also recognise that there is growing interest in the use of medicinal cannabis for the treatment of a range of medical conditions.

As you would be aware, Queensland will be partnering on an interstate clinical trial of a cannabis derived product to treat children with severe drug-resistant epilepsy. On 15 October 2015, the Queensland Chief Health Officer will attend the first steering committee meeting for the clinical trial. The Lady Cilento Children's Hospital (LCCH) is the likely Queensland trial site with the trial expected to commence in 2016. The trial presents an opportunity to demonstrate that medicinal cannabis can be a safe and effective addition to existing treatments. This would be an important step in promoting further use of medicinal cannabis in Queensland.

There has been significant work undertaken by State and Federal governments concerning the cultivation, supply and use of medicinal cannabis in Australia. My Department is meeting with the Victorian Law Reform Commission to discuss the proposed Victorian approach. My Department is also talking with the NSW Government about a coordinated approach to establishing a regulatory framework for the use of medicinal cannabis. The Palaszczuk Government will continue to have constructive dialogue with our interstate colleagues about issues related to the medicinal use of cannabis in Australia.

As more information becomes available, I will be better placed to consider what is in the best interests of all Queenslanders, including the need for any legislative change.

I would like to thank Ms Carter for her continued efforts to promote the views of those Queenslanders who support the use of medicinal cannabis and trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

**CAMERON DICK MP**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister for Ambulance Services**