

2 January 2019

Mr Rob Hansen
Committee Secretary
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and
Family Violence Prevention Committee

Via email: health@parliament.qld.gov.au

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MIGA submission – Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

MIGA appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the Committee’s inquiry into the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, focusing on proposed reforms to Queensland medicinal cannabis regulation.

MIGA is a medical defence organisation and medical / professional indemnity insurer advising, assisting and educating medical practitioners, medical students, health care organisations and privately practising midwives throughout Australia. With over 33,000 members and a national footprint, MIGA has represented the medical profession for 118 years and the broader healthcare profession for 16 years. It regularly advises, assists and educates its members and clients on medication issues. It contributed to the Queensland Parliamentary inquiry and Queensland Health review which led to development of the existing medicinal cannabis regulatory scheme. It also contributed to the South Australian Health Department consultation on development of a Schedule 8 based medicinal cannabis regime.

From a medico-legal perspective, MIGA supports the proposal to use existing Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) oversight and state-based Schedule 4 and 8 processes for doctors considering use of medicinal cannabis for their patients, and to remove the existing regulatory regime under the *Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Act 2016*. It sees this step as an important part of avoiding unnecessary duplicate regulatory processes, and in working towards national consistency in medicinal cannabis regulation. It believes the Schedule 4 and 8 regimes, coupled with TGA applications and oversight, provides appropriate regulation of medicinal cannabis use.

It is important that doctors and the broader community receive education and resources on what the new regime means and how to use it, which is ready for when it comes into effect. The wider range of doctors who may consider prescribing medicinal cannabis than previously reinforces the need for this, particularly on the need for TGA applications under the Special Access Scheme or Authorised Prescriber Scheme, and where Schedule 4 and 8 prescribing requirements vary from state to state. MIGA is willing to work with Queensland Health and other professional stakeholders in developing such material.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss, please contact Timothy Bowen, [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



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