

**Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Comr**

**From:** Gary Olive [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 3 January 2019 8:11 AM  
**To:** Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee  
**Subject:** Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018  
**Categories:** Submission

Good morning,

This email is a submission regarding :

- repeals the *Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Act 2016*, and makes consequential amendments to the *Health Act 1937*, to significantly streamline the regulatory framework for prescribing medicinal cannabis in Queensland;

My wife of 42 years has suffered with Multiple Sclerosis for the past 22 years. Having been on numerous immunotherapy drugs over this period of time we decided it was in her best interest to stop taking these toxic pharmaceutical drugs as the side effects were having devastating effects on her quality of life. About 3 years ago we started reading about Medicinal Cannabis being used for relief for many diseases including MS. At the time medicinal cannabis products were NOT readily available in Australia. However we managed to locate a **compassionate** producer of Medicinal cannabis in our region who was providing his oils **free** to families of young children suffering with retractable epilepsy. After speaking with him we were given some of his oil for Christine to use. After only two weeks many of her symptoms went away. Most of her pain associated with her MS gradually lifted, her walking and balance improved greatly and her overall self confidence improved.

Unfortunately, like many compassionate suppliers of this life changing medicine our supplier has been hounded by the police. Eventually being jailed for 10 weeks last year. In doing so the inept government and the police service took this life saving/changing medicine away from incredibly sick children and adults like my wife.

So for the past 4 months we haven't been able to get any medicinal cannabis for my wife. Her condition has regressed and at the rate she is going I am afraid she will require a wheelchair in the not too distant future.

All the barriers that have been put in place have made it that difficult to get these important medicines for anyone. I have spoken to our local doctors and they tell me that the red tape makes it too difficult and far too time consuming to even think about recommending medicinal cannabis products. On top of that the few 'Cannabis Clinics' dotted around the country want in excess of \$300.00 just for a consultation with no certainty of supply. Then the price of the oils range from \$300.00 for as little as 100ml to \$500.00 for 250ml. These prices are totally out of the question for most sick people. Many like my wife are on the Disability Support Pension and I am her Carer (on the Carers pension) People in our situation are not in a position to afford these exorbitant prices.

Australia needs to follow Canada's lead and legalise the sale of Medicinal Cannabis products. Once they are legalised and they become readily available the price will be much lower.

Additionally the laws should be introduced to allow every adult to grow 3 plants for their own use whether it be for medicinal use or recreational use. Our police force is being tied up unnecessarily with what amounts to thousands of misdemeaners and unnecessary court and jail time.

Sincerely,

Gary & Christine Olive  
[REDACTED]

*Gary Olive*