

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 January 2019 8:41 AM
To: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee
Subject: Submission regarding the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018.
Categories: Submission

TO The Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, Queensland Parliament

Dear Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018.

As a resident of Qld the state legislature is not in alignment with other states and is causing major interruptions with a consistent supply of my oil. I was referred to the Cannabis Access Clinic by both my Internal Medicine Specialist & GP some 4 months ago. My initial visit in person was at a cost of \$260 & follow up visits via video call are \$80 these occur every 2 weeks, my prescribing Dr took a months leave; due to return on the 10th of January my next appointment is at 6pm on that date via video link.

The first script I received 1 x 25ml bottle, when on calling for dispensing of my next bottle it was rejected by Qld health, as in Qld repeat scripts are not allowed; hence [REDACTED] then had to write a single script. This caused it own difficulties when the next script was faxed immediately to the dispensing Pharmacy and they were not allowed to place an order until the original script was received by post from NSW. Consequently the Pharmacy advised to reduce my dose down to .25 ml from 6ml a day, to ensure I was not left without until they could dispense. This was a decrease that resulted in me having to go back on Morphine for 5 days (only pain relief I can tolerate but at the expense of it causing further medical issues) whilst wasting money I cannot afford by putting me back to where I started; having to see my GP for a morphine script.

On discussion at the next appointment my Access Clinic Dr had ascertained that he was able to write a script for 5 bottles that I then purchase in one go. My costs for CBD oil work out at \$970 a month this does not include the \$80 a required video call.

I am on a disability pension of \$822 a fortnight, paying \$320 a week rent in Brisbane unable to return to my own home in a rural sector, due to multiple high risk health conditions not treatable adequately by drugs and lack of close by emergency health services. I had experienced multiple major life threatening allergies to medications, after being referred to a Geneticist for full DNA testing, results confirmed my bodies inability to process not only the extensive prior drug allergies but also showed up a further lengthy medications allergy list. Hence the reason my Internal medicine specialist referred me to the Access Clinic.

I contacted the clinic as my supply will be interrupted again as I am due to run out on the day of my next consult, there is nothing they can do as another Dr, other than my consulting Dr is allowed to prescribe for me. This results in my having to wait again without Oil for approx 7-10 days.

I'm a 57 year old woman who wishes to not only - abide by the law but also realize that if I drop out of the program, this would add weight to many others ideas that there is no need for legalization of Cannabis for medical reasons, let alone recreational use of a harmless plant. However with the totally unrealistic costs of Tilray oil and NO assistance through PBS, Medicare or my Private Health Insurance I am at wits end sinking financially faster than the Titanic.

Going without food, utilities and other medical needs and still not enough money left to survive on. All my savings are gone and I don't know what to do, am I to consider breaking the Law and grow my own plants which does not guarantee meeting my medical needs or find alternative supply from home producers interstate? I would prefer not but feel I will be forced instead.

30 years ago I was in the same situation for a expensive essential life saving drug for my terminally ill children, that drug was covered by the PBS in every State but they one we resided in, that resulted in declaring bankruptcy when my last child died due to overwhelming debts after lack of funding assistance for medications, equipment & burials, while I home nursed for 8 years and is a trauma that remains with me to this day.

I implore you, please assist the people who are in desperate need by streamlining the Medical Cannabis process in QLD, furthermore showing human compassion through either assistance with the costs of Medical Cannabis Oil and/or legalization. Cannabis is not a gateway or dangerous drug, it is proven to assist many with major medical issues far more safely than prescribed Opioids and other medications. Will this extremely important issue be dealt with properly ever?

I thank the Members of the Committee for their consideration regarding this matter and request that compassion for the plight of myself & many others, basic human rights for medical care will be addressed expediently.

Sincerely yours



Sent from my iPad