

**Subject:**  
**Date:**

Re: Medicinal Cannabis  
Wednesday, 29 June 2016 8:59:00 PM

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Hello.

I am writing in relation to the medicinal cannabis bill.

It is with great concern, that I heard Mr Dick announce that he would be looking to introduce legislation to legalise medicinal cannabis.

I am a GP [REDACTED] and from my experience Cannabis causes a lot of harm for many people.

As far as I am aware there is no compelling long term, randomised controlled trials showing the benefits of cannabis for medicinal use, and my colleagues are not aware of anything favorable in the literature either. Rigorous evidence is the only thing that should compel us to legalise the use of cannabis, and without that we risk causing more harm than good.

Cannabis can never be a pharmaceutical agent in the usual sense for medical prescription, as it contains a variety of components of variable potency and actions, depending on its origin, preparation and route of administration. Consequently, cannabis has variable effects in individuals. It will not be possible to determine universally safe dosage of cannabis for individuals based on a clinical trial.

We must be pragmatic about this and let good clinical evidence guide us in the use of cannabis. Otherwise we will simply be legitimising people's drug habit. I urge you and your colleagues to give this very serious thought and broaden the public debate around this.

Thank you,

Dr Theo Shemansky  
MBBS, FRACGP, B App Sci(Pod)

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