

Health, Communities, Disability Services
and Domestic and Family Violence
Prevention Committee.
Parliament House, George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

07/02/16

I suffer from Ehlers – Danlos Syndrome, types 3 (Hypermobility) and 4 (Vascular).

EDS is a degenerative connective tissue disorder caused by a defective collagen gene and there is no treatment or cure. As 80% of the human body is made up of connective tissue the symptoms of the disease are many and varied, they include but are not limited to:

Chronic unremitting moderate to severe spinal, Joint and generalized pain 24/7, Dysautonomia, Degenerating spine and spinal discs, Degenerating cartilage, ligaments and tendons, Paroxysmal Atrial Tachycardia, P.O.T.S, Subluxations of joints, Easy bruising, Spontaneous rupture of small blood vessels in hands and feet, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Gastritis, Hypermobility, Soft stretchy, easily torn skin, TMJ problems, Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy, Aortic Aneurism, Chronic Severe Depression, Anxiety, Migraines, Reynard's Syndrome, Asthma, CRPS, MCAS and more.

I have allergies to Lactose, MSG, amines, yeast, wheat, **most pharmaceuticals**; especially Neurotonins, Aspartame, Anaesthetic Gases, Codeine, alcohol and finding more allergies daily.

After many years attending The Gold Coast Pain Clinic at Pindara and having almost weekly spinal injections that made things worse, in March 2012 I had unsuccessful Spinal Reconstructive Surgery that resulted in an EXTREME prescription Opiate Addiction (I almost died 3 times from self administered Pethidine near overdoses), many doctors tried to wean me off the narcotics over the years without success as I'd go into withdrawals because of the established Chronic pain Pathways.

One day someone suggested I try Cannabis to wean myself off the narcotics, as I have worked in Para-medical areas for over 35 years, I know the procedure. It took me 3 days to come off the major narcotics...Pethidine, Fentanyl, Oxycotin, Jurnista, Proladone and another couple of months to be off all narcotics completely. I still consider myself a narcotic addict and for that reason will not use narcotics anymore; I have also recently developed such a bad allergy to narcotics that I have ended up being hospitalized for painful gastric side effects just by taking over the counter Panadine. My only pain and other symptom relief is now coming from Medical Cannabis infused coconut oil, as there is nothing else safe for me to use for the unremitting pain made by Pharmaceutical companies.

With my 30 years of diverse medical background behind me, I started studying Cannabis Medicine as it had then become my pain relief of choice. I'm now quite knowledgeable, I speak to doctors, Politicians and new patients about Cannabis Medicine; this is why I'm writing to you.

The current Medicinal Cannabis bill is too limited. The bill proposes that we treat the Cannabis industry exactly the same as the Opium Poppy industry, which has done nothing to remove Heroin or ICE from the black market. ICE is out of control in Australia, it is the drug the law makers need to be targeting, not cannabis, not Medical Cannabis users and not the people who care for them.

The Drug War has been a miserable failure & it's time for a new approach such as in countries like Portugal where Drug War monies have been redirected into Drug Rehabilitation, after all the definition of insanity is continuing to do the same thing and expecting a different result, let's end the insanity now.

The Medicinal Cannabis Bill is based on the models of Canada/Israel/Holland as opposed to the American Dispensary system, herein lays the problem:

- There are companies set up in Canada whose sole purpose is to apply for Medical Cannabis on behalf of patients.... WHY?: <http://cannapply.mdom.mobi/>
- There are already cases tying up the court system in Canada over the strict policy and patients inability to obtain medicine
- The industry has had issues in Canada: <http://www.cantechletter.com/2014/09/industry-insight-medical-marijuana/>
- All of the above could be taken as strong evidence in Trudeau's decision to legalize Cannabis, the system wasn't working.
- We are born with and Endocannabinoid system that regulates our Nervous system: <http://thearrowsoftruth.com/the-endocannabinoid-system-we-are-born-with-it/>
- Many Cannabinoids in the plant can be used to replace those with Endocannabinoid deficiencies or where Anandamide degrades too quickly as with Schizophrenia: <http://www.nature.com/tp/journal/v2/n3/full/tp201215a.html>
- The Entourage Effect requires whole plant medicine: <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/03/11/health/gupta-marijuana-entourage/>
- **Pre made Cannabis products will NOT suit all patients as you will see below:**

Up until a few months ago, I was lucky enough to have compassionate people send me Cannabis Oil to treat my symptoms, what I have observed is that some oil batches work, some don't help much at all. This **IS NOT** a quality control issue, but rather a **DISEASE/STRAIN of CANNABIS** issue, ie; **different strains of cannabis are effective for different diseases**, even down to the Sativa/Indica/Hybrid strains.

Just as with existing pharmaceuticals, where doctors have to choose one of many drugs available for any given illness or disease (Heart disease, Diabetes, etc) and then tailor that drug to the patient (amount to prescribe), the very same holds true with Cannabis Medicine. If a doctor prescribes a heart pill for you, he has many to choose from such as; 5 – 10 types of Beta Blocker's or Calcium Channel Receptor Inhibitors or an Anti Arrhythmic, and the list goes on, the doctor chooses what he thinks will best suit your symptoms and then titrates the dosage till the problem is under control.

There are more than 60 Cannabinoids and over 200 terpenes (smells/colour) in Cannabis and every one of these are therapeutically 'active compounds'. Each strain of Cannabis has vastly different proportions of Cannabinoids & Terpenoids which is why we need to be "**strain specific**" when discussing Cannabis as a Medicine, the very reason we must have 'Whole Plant Medicine' and not extracts or pre-made oils, we need Cannabis Medicine Specialists who can tailor Cannabis medicine to their patients the same way other medications are tailored to patient needs.

The chemical compounds in Cannabis change with how the plant is processed and administered, potential therapeutic benefits vary depending on how the plant is administered: raw, heated or aged. Cannabis Medicine can be administered as an alcohol, glycerine or oil based tincture, Cannabis Oil (RSO & BHO – the cancer curing oils), in edible products made from Cannabutter or oil, Tea, Salve, Creams and lotions , the Cannabis tincture or Oil can be made into suppositories and the dried plant material or resin extract vaporized.

This is the reasoning behind the American system of Medical Cannabis, patients give their medical history and what symptoms they are having difficulty with, the dispensary staff then consult a Cannabinoid Chart (See example last page) to see which strain they have that would suit the patients needs best, they choose a couple for the patient to smell, because the patient is most often drawn to the strain by the terpenes in the cannabis that are 'feel good' smells, such as Limonene also found in citrus..

<http://steephilllab.com/resources/cannabinoid-and-terpenoid-reference-guide/>

I urge you to look at the following link, it is '**Understanding Medical Cannabis**' from Steep Hill Halent Laboratories in the USA, they are preeminent in the field of Medical Cannabis.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3DPJKkBZdbYdjh3ZDJXY1U4OWM/edit?pli=1>

It is imperative that you draw upon the knowledge and experience of patients and producers of Cannabis Medicine in Australia and overseas, who are currently using and producing the product, albeit illegally in Australia. **We know what works and what doesn't, right now: WE ARE YOUR HUMAN TRIALS and have been for years.** There have been trials ad infinitum in the US and Canada for your experts to draw upon, so there is no excuse for not understanding the hidden pitfalls in the proposed bill.

Please DO NOT make the mistake of producing or importing a Cannabis Medication made from one strain of Cannabis and expect doctors with no knowledge or experience to prescribe it to patients who have had never had it before in any form, as this is setting the whole thing up for failure, there **will be** bad reactions as with any new medication, but because of the propaganda of prohibition this would just confirm the detractors beliefs that Cannabis is dangerous.

The use of pharmaceutically derived cannabis medicine is an extremely dangerous proposal as it is no longer a natural product and as with many pharmaceutical ventures there have already been deaths attributed to synthetic pharmaceutical Cannabinoids.

<http://truthinmedia.com/one-dead-five-ill-synthetic-cannabis-drug-trial/>

Cannabis DOES NOT need to be made into a pharmaceutical for controlled dosages, as oil & tinctures are measured in grains & drops, dosages are titrated & never a standard dose for everyone. And if you understand the strain of cannabis/disease issue, pharmaceutical companies couldn't produce the volume of different combinations that the plant does naturally or with minimal human intervention.

New Medicinal Cannabis users NEED the support and knowledge of those already providing and using the medicine, as the effects can be unsettling for a first time user, having a support network already in place of long term users, would mitigate this issue.

Please look at the American Dispensary Model and see if there is a happy medium to be found between their model and what you are proposing.

There is a massive Medical Cannabis Movement in Australia (MCUA – Medical Cannabis Users Association with over 5000 members just to name one). We have many knowledgeable Doctors, patients and producers of Medical Cannabis, we are the people you need to consult and listen to so that we can have successful, effective and safe Cannabis Medicine in Australia.

I hope you will reconsider making changes to the Medicinal Cannabis Bill, as it is currently far too limiting for patients and their accessibility to the strain/type/method of administration and amount of Cannabis Medicine that works best for all patients and their specific illnesses.

Kind regards
Debbi Cliff MA, M.A.I.E.S.

Find the effect you're looking for and the matching cannabinoids and terpenes, then look for those same cannabinoids and terpenes in the test results to choose the right medicine for you.



ANALGESIC	Relieves pain	CBC CBD CBGA D9-THC D8-THC THCA-C8 THCV A CBDA CBNA Linalool Myrcene
ANORECTIC	Weight loss	THCV
ANTIBACTERIAL	Slows bacteria growth	CBD CBGA CBG
ANTI-DIABETIC	Reduces blood sugar levels	CBD
ANTIDEPRESSANT		Limonene
ANTI-EMETIC	Reduces vomiting and nausea	D9-THC CBD
ANTI-EPILEPTIC	Reduce seizures and convulsions	THCV CBD Linalool
ANTIFUNGAL	Treats fungal infection	CBGA Caryophyllene Oxide Limonene
ANTI-INFLAMMATORY	Reduces inflammation	CBDA CBD CBA CBC CBGA Alpha-Pinene Myrcene Beta-Caryophyllene
ANTI-INSOMNIA	Aids sleep	THCA CBG
ANTI-ISCHEMIC	Reduces risk of artery blockage	CBD
ANTIOXIDANT		Terpenoids
ANTI-PROLIFERATIVE	Inhibits cancer cell growth	THCA CBDA CBD CBC CBG Limonene
ANTIPSORIATIC	Treats psoriasis	CBG
ANTIPSYCHOTIC	Tranquilizing	CBD Linalool Myrcene
ANTISPASMODIC	Suppresses muscle spasms	THCA D9-THC CBD Myrcene
ANXIOLITIC	Relieves anxiety	CBD Linalool Limonene
APPETITE STIMULANT	Stimulates appetite	D9-THC
BONE STIMULANT	Promotes bone growth	THCV CBD CBC CBG
BRONCHODILATORY		Alpha-Pinene
GASTRO-OESOPHAGEAL REFLUX		Limonene
IMMUNOSTIMULANT		Limonene
IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE	Reduces function in the immune system	CBD
INTESTINAL ANTI-PROKINETIC	Reduces small intestine contractions	CBD
NEUROPROTECTIVE	Retards nervous system degeneration	CBD
VASORELAXANT	Reduces vascular tension	CBD

DISCLAIMER: The information on this poster is not intended to replace a one-on-one relationship with a qualified health care professional and is not intended as medical advice. Please consult a medical health care professional before making any decisions regarding your use of medical cannabis.