

**Submission**

**The Draft Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis)**

**Bill 2016**

**A Submission made by:** 

**Member of the**

**Medical Cannabis Users Association Australia**

I am writing this submission to voice my concerns regarding the draft Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2016.

I have some major concerns regarding the input from people such as Dr Young and the Cancer Council of Australia. My immediate concern is that they are not experts in the realm of medical cannabis scientifically or as a medicine. Having read through the literature that is being used specifically that cited from the World Health Organization of which a Professor Wayne Hall is the major contributor, I find that the information is illusive, biased and misrepresents cannabis as a medicine. The trials and studies that Professor Hall, Dr Young and the Cancer Council cite are based on studies that the researchers themselves state have not taken confounding attributes into consideration and controls were used did not factor all co-occurring contributors also that more research is needed to come to a definitive conclusion. But this is what these individuals are using to advise this committee. This information is not showing cannabis as the essential therapeutic plant that it actually is as shown by scientific evidence collated since.

There are over twenty thousand research trials and clinical studies on medical cannabis efficacy that have been published on Pubmed a peer reviewed scientific research collection. Through scientific research cannabis has been proven to be a safer non-toxic substitute as opposed to toxic pharmaceutical products whose debilitating side effects can in many cases can and have caused death. I believe that the largest contributing factor of cannabis being seen as a dangerous substance comes directly from vested interests from large pharmaceutical companies. The fact that there has never been a recorded death from cannabis consumption as opposed to the amount of deaths contributed to pharmaceutical medicine consumption speaks volumes.

In the US where in Colorado has seen the legalization of cannabis both medicinally and recreationally there has been a significant decrease in sexual assaults, violent assaults, robberies, and homicides. Use of cannabis by adolescents has not risen and remained stable. In all states that medicinal cannabis has been legalized opioid abuse and deaths has also decreased.

In studies conducted worldwide cannabis and cannabinoid medicines have been proven to be effective in a variety of applications including uses as a neuro-protectant, anti-inflammatory, anti-convulsant, anti-nausea, appetite stimulant and pain management. Research is now shifting from cannabis efficacy to modifying disease.

I am disgusted that in the face of enormous amounts of scientific data that Australia is still focusing on trials of cannabis to ascertain efficacy and that these trials are to be conducted using inferior products that do not contain the whole plant formulations. These trials have already been done and have been found to be ineffective. Only whole plant formulations have scientifically been shown to work.

The fact that this bill is only allowing for a very small number of illnesses to be regarded shows the lack of understanding and knowledge by the Australian medical profession. There are hundreds of illnesses and conditions that medical cannabis can alleviate.

With the interference of large pharmaceutical companies on Australian medical professionals I fear that medical cannabis has been railroaded to ensure these companies stake in the multi billion dollar pharmaceutical industry.

Through scientific screening by independently owned and operated medical cannabis screening facilities such as Steep Hill Labs who are based in the US who have the intent and means to operate in Australia, that all Australians will be able to grow their own cannabis. Steep Hill Labs have developed the technology to test cannabis for potency, pesticides and mould to ensure the safety and efficacy of cannabis and serves patients, dispensaries, co operatives, collectives, concentrate producers, edibles manufacturers and growers. They operate analytical and microbiological laboratories that are the gold standard in screening worldwide.

The process that Australia is setting up as a pathway for patients to access medical cannabis time consuming and ridiculous but understandable based on the information that policy makers are going by. I am very concerned that the medical professionals involved do not have the appropriate knowledge to undertake this endeavour and this is increasingly apparent from the direction the delivery of the medical cannabis is being set up for Australians to access medical cannabis, especially in the fact of home grown cannabis not being taken into consideration. In the US the FDA and here in Australia the TGA does testing for pharmaceutical products which requires only one or maybe even two trials for a pharmaceutical medication to be approved for sale with many civil lawsuits ensuing against pharmaceutical companies because of debilitating side effects and fatalities from these toxic products. Then there is cannabis which has been scientifically proven to have very minor side effects is incapable of causing a death is non-toxic is an actual neuro protectant causes cancer cells to auto destruct is being made to have extensive testing and numerous trials. This is mystifying to all scientific professionals involved in the study of cannabis.

The initial criminalization of cannabis has no scientific basis for the scheduling of cannabis as a poison. The extensive body of scientific evidence proves without a doubt that cannabis is in fact a therapeutic and medicinal agent. The studies that have been cited from many medical professionals and policy makers here in Australia as being responsible for mental health and physiological illnesses and conditions have been scientifically proven to be false.

The scheduling of cannabis as a poison has no scientific basis and has been done as a political manoeuvre. Pharmaceutical companies are one of the biggest contributors to political parties and governments. It is a well-known fact that doctors are influenced by large pharmaceutical companies by monetary gains and things such as holidays.

All of the studies cited on Australian government institutions that allude to cannabis being unsafe and toxic have been presented in this way to instil fear into the Australian public and are as a direct result of pharmaceutical and political involvement. In all of the studies referred to by these institutions researchers have qualified that confounding attributes have not been taken into consideration, controls have not been used that more study is needed making these studies unusable.

The range of illnesses and conditions that cannabis has been proven to treat are not being acknowledged, again because of lack of knowledge from the medical professional involved in advising in the draft bill process.

The method of delivery of medical cannabis as it stands is highly ineffective, too long and drawn out and that patients need to be able to grow their own if they so choose.

Measures need to be taken immediately for an amnesty to be given to medical cannabis users until policies can be changed and cannabis can be rescheduled.

Australia is trying to create an invalid system of delivery that will not be effective and is totally ignoring other systems from countries that are working now.

The excuse that Australia is a signatory with any UN treaty is just that an excuse. As we have seen with the treatment of Australia's Indigenous peoples and the removal of the Great Barrier Reef as a protected area that the Australian government does not always abide by UN rulings and that we can removed ourselves from any treaty if we so wish.

We need to implement a delivery system for application and approval to use medical cannabis, for those that cannot grow their own cannabis which also gives information, support and testing for those that do in the form of clinics using professionally trained cannabis doctors. Shop front dispensaries, growing information centres and testing facilities.

Re education of Australians from the medical profession, political policy makers down to the public on the efficacy, and inherent value of medical cannabis as a safe non-toxic first line treatment.

I hope that people such as Dr Young , The Cancer Council and Prof Wayne Hall will be immediately re educated or removed from any association as an advisory capacity in the formulation of this bill and the system of delivery of medical cannabis to the Australian public.

Alongside that, the Battle of the Secunda Prime yielded next to no results despite being orchestrated by the notorious Stromkirk Noble I am writing this submission to voice my concerns regarding the draft Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2016.

I have some major concerns regarding the input from people such as Dr Young and the Cancer Council of Australia. My immediate concern is that they are not experts in the realm of medical cannabis scientifically or as a medicine. Having read through the literature that is being used specifically that cited from the World Health Organization of which a Professor Wayne Hall is the major contributor, I find that the information is illusive biased and misrepresents cannabis as a medicine. The trials and studies that Professor Hall, Dr Young and the Cancer Council cites are based on studies that the researchers themselves state have not taken confounding attributes into consideration and controls were used did not factor all co- occurring contributors also that more research is needed to come to a definitive conclusion. But this is what these individuals are using to advise this committee. This information is not showing cannabis as the essential therapeutic plant that it actually is as shown by scientific evidence collated since.

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I like many others are suffering from the toxic effects of pharmaceutical medicines that in no way heal our illnesses only mask the symptoms and produce other debilitating illnesses and diseases. Cannabis has benefitted me immensely when I am able to access it my life becomes normal and I am able to function and thrive. I am not a criminal but because of your policies you are making me a criminal. I am ill in pain and suffering and you are allowing this to happen. While I am only able to legally have pharmaceuticals I like many others will deteriorate and many will die. People are dying every day because of this government's ineptitude and what I believe amounts to criminal behaviour in the fact that you are not allowing patients access to a medicine that heals and saves lives. It is a basic human right for all people to have access to medicines and yet you allow pharmaceutical companies whose only interest lay in making money to sell their poisons that are actually killing people. Do you not understand the brevity of this situation? Do you even care what is happening to people? Where is your compassion for people who are suffering?

The people sitting on this committee have the chance to bring about real change and it is vitally important that all of you educate yourselves to the truth about cannabis that it is in fact a medicine and that it has, does and will benefit all people who use it. I appeal to your basic humanity to allow Australians access to whole plant cannabis allow us to be able to grow our own. The ridiculous and downright evil war on drugs has failed. It was only ever another money making exercise and has persecuted people for simply being unwell.

Thank you for your time

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