



Speech By  
**Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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**MEMBER'S PRIVATE STATEMENT**

**Medicinal Cannabis**

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (3.01 pm): Whilst the Queensland government has announced its support for the commencement in 2016 of trials of pharmaceutical cannabis for children with drug-resistant epilepsy, many local people have met with me to discuss their desire to progress law reform in respect of medicinal cannabis. Those people have told me about their personal stories involving the medical conditions of family members and friends—people like Eamonn.

Eamonn has to be one of the happiest people I have ever met. He is a young man with a huge smile and an even bigger heart. I have known Eamonn's family for more than 20 years. Since before the last election, I have spoken with Eamonn's mum at length about the terrifying and sometimes daily epileptic seizures that Eamonn experiences. I cannot imagine the distress that Eamonn's mum must go through when she is holding her son in her arms and feeling helpless to prevent or control Eamonn's seizures. Surely we can do more to help Eamonn and his mum and people like them.

There are many other people with similar stories. It is hard not to be moved by the heartfelt stories from people who have debilitating conditions which may be relieved by medicinal cannabis use. I am pleased that the Premier is listening to these stories, and I commend the compassionate and courageous decision by the Queensland government to commit to supporting the trials of pharmaceutical cannabis for children with drug-resistant epilepsy. However, it is important for all members to also think about how other progress can be made. In that respect, I ask members of this House to turn their minds to how the Queensland government can progress the further trials of medicinal cannabis.

Thought should also be given to how the Queensland government can progress the recent announcement that the federal government intends to introduce a licensing scheme for the domestic supply of medicinal cannabis. As global supplies of medicinal cannabis are relatively scarce and expensive, the introduction of a national licensing scheme is essential. I encourage the Queensland government to consider how we can be a leader in relation to the rollout of this licensing scheme.

The stories about children experiencing life-threatening seizures, the stories about the nausea experienced by cancer sufferers undergoing chemotherapy, the stories about those people experiencing debilitating end-of-life pain should move us all and should call us all to act compassionately in respect of how we can act to assist them further.