



Speech By  
**Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk**


**MEMBER FOR INALA**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2016

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Medicinal Cannabis**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): I have been moved by the stories of families with young children with epilepsy suffering life-threatening seizures and what they have to go through on a daily basis. Today marks another milestone for those who have campaigned tirelessly for changes that will allow access to medicinal cannabis. Today the Minister for Health will introduce into the parliament the Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2016. My government has listened to the many points of view on this issue including from parents of children with treatment resistant conditions who stand to benefit from this legislation. That is why we have collaborated closely with New South Wales, Victoria and the Commonwealth.

This legislation will provide a transparent and robust regulatory framework to manage access to medicinal cannabis. It has been informed by consultation with medical specialists and stakeholder groups, hospital and health services and, importantly, members of the public and potential recipients. Consultation feedback was overwhelmingly supportive of the government's access scheme.

Let me be very clear that this is in no way a green light for the recreational use of cannabis, nor for people to grow their own cannabis even if for therapeutic use. These activities remain offences under the Drugs Misuse Act 1986. However, the lawful production of medicinal cannabis presents an opportunity for Queensland businesses to supply goods to this expanding market. My government is working closely with industry representatives to assist them to participate in the Commonwealth's licensing scheme for cultivation and manufacture of medicinal cannabis.