

I am forwarding this submission in my support of the introduction of Medicinal Cannabis in Australia.

I am a highly functional member of Australian society and a Medicinal Cannabis user. I hold multiple degrees, including Pharmacology and Public Health. I have more than 20 years experience as a Clinical Cannabis Consultant and Educator in California.

I represent a large number of Australian cannabis users - the ones who stay under the legal radar, grow their own medical supplies, hold down well-paying jobs and who have to lie about their cannabis use because of antiquated Australian Medical Cannabis laws.

The legitimacy and effectiveness of Medical Cannabis is well documented in many countries including Canada, Sweden, Denmark and the United States. In Australia, the use of Cannabis as a medicine is riddled with years of negative stereotyping and moral debates that are based on ideological viewpoints of a minority.

Medical Doctors have many years of medical training and understand the human body better than most, yet in Australia, they cannot legally recommend the use of Cannabis.

As examples of what Medical Cannabis is capable of, and in respect of your time, I offer you a synopsis of three Medical Cannabis patients.

Case 1

Palliative care (end of Life)

A small amount of cannabis was secured and offered it to a 30-year-old bed-ridden man whom was in his last days of fighting the effects of wasting, organ failure and Kaposi Sarcoma due to the HIV Virus¹.

Within minutes of his first dose of medical cannabis, his pain was gone his mood was lifted. There were no negative side effects, only that his 'high' was often short-lived and varied; dependent upon the cannabis strains secured for him.

The patient passed soon after. His family was thankful for the opportunity to see their son and brother free from pain and suffering during his final days.

Case 2

Undiagnosed Crohn's Disease, leading to a life-threatening emergency, including a bowel resection.

Forty-eight hours after surgery, the patient started taking high strength oral cannabis oils and administering cannabis suppositories to counteract the effects of a disease that was literally eating away at his intestines.²

After the first post-surgery colonoscopy (3 months since medical cannabis treatment begin), the progress of healing was noted as "excellent". The Specialist was told about the use of cannabis oil and he approved its use - Dr stated he would not/could not mention it on the medical chart. If the Specialist had added the words "cannabis user" to the medical chart- patient would be forever labelled a "drug addict".

¹ Smoked Medicinal Cannabis for Neuropathic Pain in HIV: A Randomized, Crossover Clinical Trial. *Neuropsychopharmacology*: Aug. 2008

² Cannabis induces a clinical response in patients with Crohn's disease: a prospective placebo-controlled study. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23648372>

Case 3

Female adult with ADD and ADHD

A life-long regime of pharmaceuticals had left this patient dangerously under-weight, under-nourished and sleepless.

With approval from the consulting Psychiatrist, patient titrated off pharmaceuticals whilst beginning to use Medical Cannabis. A Sativa-based glycerine solution was developed specifically for this patient - the strain was recommended do to it's 'racy high' (much like the effects of Ritalin or Adderall). Three weeks into the cannabis trial, patient had stopped taking pharmaceuticals, and her weight had increased slightly. By week five, patient was able to eat small meals throughout the day and sleeping a healthy seven hours per night.

Six months after starting Medical Cannabis, patient enrolled in tertiary education to become an Enrolled Nurse, something that was not possible prior to starting Medical Cannabis. Now an Enrolled Nurse, she lives in daily fear that her medical cannabis use will end her career.

I look forward to a common sense approach to Medical Cannabis in Australia-one that is based on compassion and scientific evidence.

I thank you for taking the time to read my submission.