

Subject: The Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014
Date: Friday, 13 March 2015 10:20:35 AM

Attention: Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Canberra ACT 2600

Regarding: The Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014

Dear Committee Delegates,

I would like to submit an opinion on the matter of the current debate on medicinal cannabis.

As a mother of child with difficult to control epilepsy, medicinal cannabis would be another treatment option for my daughter. I am currently trialing the fifth medication to control her seizures. Pharmaceutical medications that have serious adverse side effects. She is only nine, and has been through a lot in her short life with regards to seizures, medications, side effects, tests, etc. and I know many more families that have more serious life threatening epilepsy conditions that have exhausted conventional medication options and need another treatment option right now.

Not only would I like to see medicinal cannabis available for the treatment of epilepsy disorders but I believe the mounting evidence of its usefulness in alleviating pain for cancer sufferers and for treating other neurological conditions.

Considering the current research in the United States, Israel and some European countries – the evidence is overwhelming that medicinal cannabis has a strong place in our quest for health and sadly Australia is trailing way behind.

I am in support of changing our current legislation to one where the use of a continual supply of legal medicinal cannabis is available to the appropriate members of community who require this option.

I feel that by changing our current legislation that we can personally and as a country as a whole benefit incredibly from re-legalising this incredible plant to assist those suffering unnecessarily. Not only can those in terrible pain and suffering find relief and even lessening of their illness, but there is a wonderful opportunity to grant this herb a place in local communities. Community is where true health and well-being lies and NOT in the hands of giant offshore pharmaceutical companies, but in the hands of local growers, manufacturers and distributors – creating jobs, productivity, better health and financial benefits. The financial benefits come from local produce, supporting local communities, transforming suffering agriculture and relieving Australia's burdensome health costs.

I look forward to seeing the Committee seriously and positively respond to the Medicinal Bill for the benefit of all Australians.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Alsop