

13th March 2015

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

Regarding: The Moderator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014
This submission may be made public, but please remove the address

Dear Committee Delegates,

This submission is in support of the above legislation.

I am a member of the Australian public. I was diagnosed with rectal cancer four years ago at the age of 24. I still have cancer, and my specialists now expect that it will be terminal.

Medicinal cannabis has helped me immensely. It has proven to be more effective than even the strongest and most expensive pharmaceutical anti-emetics. Using cannabis has afforded me a quality of life I could only have ever imagined. I would not be as fit or as healthy as I am today if it were not for the medical benefits of cannabis. In September 2014, with the help of cannabis, I trained for and ran my first half marathon. I did this during a course of chemotherapy which had been ongoing for over a year. There are not many chemotherapy patients running half marathons, and it would never have been possible for me without the help of cannabis. I have never experienced any ill effect from cannabis. I wish I could say the same for the myriad pharmaceutical drugs I have been prescribed.

Patients like me who rely on cannabis for our quality of life must break the law in order to use our medicine. This is a shameful state of affairs for a first world country in the 21st century. The *Moderator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014* is a very important step in ensuring that people who need this medicine to enjoy a quality of life that cannot be afforded them by conventional medicine are not criminalised.

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