



Health
Northern Sydney
Local Health District



13th March 2015

Ms Sophie Dunstone
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislative Committee

Dear Ms Dunstone

Re: Inquiry into the Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014

I did want to write this very brief note in support of this Bill that represent an attempt to form legislation concerning the use medical cannabis.

As both an anaesthetist and a doctor involved in acute pain medicine we are still really struggling with problems such as intractable nausea and vomiting and the appropriate management of ongoing pain, especially neuropathic pain. The current selection of drugs is certainly useful, but there are still so many gaps.

I think the interesting point about medical cannabis is that in many ways, the problem does not lie in its clinical evidence. The review papers that have already been published from overseas trials clearly demonstrate the efficacy of the substance in a multitude of applications.

The real problems lie in the very areas that your Committee is dealing with - the methods of approval, licensing and prescription. There have been so many hopes over the years with regard to medical cannabis, and most have led nowhere. Now, again, there is a renewed interest, and this time from a range of different groups. I wish you success in your current endeavours.

Yours faithfully,

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