

Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014

22 February 2015

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT, 2600

Re: The Moderator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014

Dear Committee Delegates

My company, The Don Medicinal Cannabis Pty Ltd, ABN 11 600 000 306, has been providing medicinal cannabis preparations to over 550 seriously ill Australians, with cancer, MS, epilepsy, Parkinson's, Alzheimers and other life challenging conditions, for almost a year now. I appreciate that this activity is presently outside a legal framework, but I am hopeful that the present review undertaken by our government will lead to a change in that situation

Information about my activities is freely available at the website:

<http://www.thedonmedicinalcannabis.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Don-Medicinal-Cannabis/654186018005437>

I have established my company in order to properly manage the legal supply of medicinal cannabis when that becomes possible. I am proudly an Australian tax paying company

My concerns with the Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014 are:

My cancer patients required 1 gram of raw cannabis oil a day. It takes about 7 grams of raw cannabis product to make 1 gram of my cannabis oil. The 15 grams raw cannabis materials limit, would have a cancer patient or their carer having to source raw cannabis product from me every two days. This is not realistic or fair

Small Australian companies and individuals without criminal record, should be included in the process to research, cultivate and distribute medicinal cannabis. On the 17 th November 2014, my solicitor contacted the Hon Catherine Cusack MLC, and attorney generals in all Australian states, expressing our interest to do such, and we are still waiting detailed response. I feel I could add value to such discussions with my experience helping many sick Australians with medicinal cannabis

I feel in Australia, we have the home-grown expertise already and that we should promote home grown talent. I am using qualified chemists to make cannabis oil

for me now, grown from imported medicinal strain seeds from UK and European seed companies, where I have numerous wholesale seed licenses. Medical conditions can easily be linked to particular medical strains these days, thanks to international research

Large pharmaceutical companies have pre-made standardized cannabis products, such as Sativex, which has been found to cause oral discomfort in 20-25% of patients. Medical cannabis users do not typically experience this problem and often rely on vaporizers to avoid the negative effects of smoking. Also, Sativex is expensive. In New Zealand, an average annual prescription of Sativex costs about \$16,000. Likewise, according to Professor Gavin Giovannoni of the London School of Medicine, Sativex has 'not proven to be cost effective' in the UK, which has led to a large number of MS patients to continue using illegal forms of cannabis

Cannabis can never be a pharmaceutical agent in the usual sense for medical prescription, as it contains a variety of components of variable potency and actions, depending on its origin, preparation and route of administration. Consequently, cannabis has variable effects in individuals. It will not be possible to determine universally safe dosage of cannabis for individuals based on a clinical trial. Google also search shows no one has ever died from a cannabis overdose. Worth considering with the eighty years of fear mongering about the cannabis plant

Medical cannabis near-miraculous healing powers require the whole plant. Not just one oil extract. CBD - only laws are a pretext to extend cannabis prohibition under the guise of 'protecting the children'. We need many types of cannabis, not just CBD dominant strains. THC is the primary component of cannabis that causes death of cancer cells. This is well documented by US, Canadian, Israeli and Spanish doctors producing almost weekly videos on 'youtube'. Australia has no excuse to be ignorant regarding developments in international medicine

I believe medicinal cannabis can be produced in Australia, tested on site, and that Australia has the resources to be a world leader and supplier of medicinal cannabis. We could use our vast land resources to supply China and beyond, taking over from the collapse in the mining boom

I hope you will consider the above points with the medicinal cannabis bill 2014. I feel it currently favors large international pharmaceutical companies with standardized products, ignores Australia home grown talents, and promotes one oil extract products. Instead the law should be based upon recent medicinal discoveries, and compassion for sick and life challenged Australians

Thank you for considering my thoughts and

Kind regards,

Director
The Don Medicinal Cannabis