



## Inquiry into Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014

Dear Committee Secretary of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, \_\_\_\_\_, currently the Managing Director of MEDICANN PTYLTD, A Medical Cannabis Company I hope to continue to establish whilst working within the parameters of the Australian Law.

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## 1.0 Definitions used and Key terms

### **Cannabinoids**

Substances that bind to biological receptors to produce the pharmacological effects demonstrated by cannabis, including both natural and synthetic cannabinoids.

### **Cannabis**

Reference to the cannabis plant and any product derived from the plant, including dried cannabis (marijuana) and cannabis extracts. Includes the species *Cannabis sativa*, *Cannabis indica* and *Cannabis ruderalis*.

### **Cannabis extract**

any concentrated form of cannabis in which the chemical components of the cannabis plant have been removed from the plant material, using a solvent or infusion method (includes cannabis oil and tinctures).

### **CBD**

Cannabidiol, a non-psychoactive cannabinoid found in the cannabis plant.

### **Infused products**

Cannabis products produced by the infusion of dried or fresh cannabis in a solvent.

### **Medical practitioner**

A person registered to practise in the medical profession under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Victoria) Act 2009*.

### **Phytocannabinoid**

Any plant-derived cannabinoid or plant-derived substance which interacts with the endocannabinoid system or is similar in structure to a cannabinoid.

### **Terpene**

Volatile compounds found in the cannabis plant.

### **TGA**

The Therapeutic Goods Administration, a division of the Commonwealth Department of Health.

### **THC**

Tetrahydrocannabinol, the principal psychoactive constituent (or cannabinoid) of the cannabis plant. An isomer of THC, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, sometimes referred to as dronabinol, is believed to be the most active version of the compound.

### **Tincture**

A solution of cannabis infused in alcohol, administered under the tongue or taken orally.

### **Medical terms**

#### **Acute pain**

Pain which lasts for a short time, provoked by a specific disease or injury.

#### **Chemotherapy**

Treatment of disease (especially cancer) by means of chemical substances.

#### **Chronic pain**

Pain which persists beyond the time of healing of surgery, trauma or other condition, frequently without a clearly identifiable cause.

#### **Epilepsy**

A chronic neurological disorder characterised by violent, uncontrolled seizures and usually associated with some alteration of consciousness.

#### **Glaucoma**

A disease of the eye characterised by increased intraocular pressure and damage to the the optic nerve, which produces vision defects and can result in blindness.

## 2.0 ABOUT MEDICANN PTY LTD

Medicann Pty Ltd was established 2015 by two enthusiastic brothers who have been watching the medicinal cannabis industries movements for the last 10 years.

Medicann hopes to one day be one of Australia's most trusted medicinal cannabis companies, offering quality medicinal cannabis, products and information to those in need.

At Medicann we believe that there is enough evidence conveyed around the world in countries who have already begun the use of medicinal cannabis, helping aid and treat people with several types of conditions that have been proven to be aided by medicinal cannabis.

Australia will be the forth country to enact (if we choose to do so) a National Medical Cannabis Program (NMCP). Holland, Canada and Israel are the three countries already operating NMCP, while the Czech Republic and Uruguay are in the last stages of launching such program.

At Medicann we hope to promote the appreciation, information, benefits, culture and availability of cannabis as a natural alternative for the use as a medication/ therapeutic good.

### **3. MEDICINAL CANNABIS**

#### **3.1 - Medicinal Cannabis and Variety of strains for different medicinal purposes**

MEDICAL CANNABIS has been scientifically proven to cure and relieve symptoms of a number of medical ailments and conditions. There have been numerous studies conducted with published results noting the positive effects that medical cannabis and products relating can have for people facing terminal illness, chronic pain, untreatable epilepsy and so many more conditions.

Cannabis is a flowering plant containing over 80 different types of cannabinoids along with other molecules such as terpenes and flavonoids, many of which have documented medical value.

The most studied and abundant cannabinoids in the cannabis plant are **(THC)** Tetrahydrocannabinol and **(CBD)** cannabidiol. Cannabinoids are located in all parts of the cannabis plant but are highest in concentration in the female plants flowers.

Human Bodies naturally produce cannabinoids, endocannabinoids, which are critical to the body's regulation of many functions, including: brain development, immune system function, inflammation, appetite, metabolism and energy regulation, cardiovascular function, digestion, bone development, reproduction, pain, and psychomotor behaviour.

The endocannabinoids bind to cannabis receptors that are found widely distributed in bodily tissue, on both sides, inside and outside of the central nervous system. Phytocannabinoids copy the effect of endocannabinoids by binding to cannabis receptors found in the body providing a cannabinoids therapeutic effect.

Individual cannabinoids appear to function naturally and in tandem with each other and with the body's endocannabinoid system, through cooperative 'ensemble' effect. This shows the natural benefits of medicinal cannabis with wide ranges of cannabinoids working with the endocannabinoid system. Proving to be a superior product over isolated synthetic pharmaceutical brands listed on the TGA at the moment.

There are hundreds of strains of cannabis and each strain has a particular cannabinoid profile, i.e. different ratio of THC and CBD etc.; and specific balance and expression of terpenoids and flavonoids. This Ratio with in cannabis plant of major cannabinoids to minor cannabinoids is believed to be what provides cannabis medicinal and therapeutic effects.

Knowledge of different genetic strains and their varying ratios of cannabinoids can be crucial in deciding what strains and types are suited for different illnesses.

### 3.2 Potential Conditions Medicinal Cannabis can treat:

Since the endocannabinoid system plays an important regulatory function in many different parts of the body, it can also play a role in managing symptoms or modifying underlying disease states of the following symptoms and conditions:

- Multiple sclerosis
- Muscle spasms
- Fibromyalgia
- Arthritis
- Anxiety states
- Symptoms relating to HIV and AIDs
- Chemotherapy-induced nausea, vomiting and anorexia
- Chronic neuropathic pain
- Gastrointestinal disorders including inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's and ulcerative colitis) and irritable bowel syndrome.
- Epilepsy
- Glaucoma

It is important that patients are using strains of medical cannabis that is appropriate for their condition and have appropriate ratios of CBD and THC for maximum efficacy.

## **4.0 IN CONCLUSION**

MEDICANN PTYLTD appreciate the opportunity to Inquire into "Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014".

MEDICANN PTYLTD **SUPPORT** the proposed bill as we feel change to current drug reform needs to happen to benefit people in need.

Cannabis can never be a pharmaceutical agent in the usual sense, as it contains a variety of components of variable potency and ratios, depending on its origin, preparation and route of administration. These naturally occurring variable factors will help in determining different conditions that different strains of cannabis may be able to help with.

Medicann believe that Medicinal Cannabis should not be regulated by the current system (TGA). Cannabis is a natural product and should be treated as such when it comes to the regulating of its use as a medicine or therapeutic good.

Thank you for allowing Medicann Pty Ltd to submit an inquiry into "Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014".