

13th March 2015

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

Regarding: The Moderator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014

Dear Committee Delegates,

As a member of the Australian public, I wish to submit my viewpoint on Medicinal Cannabis.

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 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.

My son would benefit from the hemp seed powder as it is highly nutritious. Many countries around the world have legalised hemp seed for food.

Medicinal cannabis has allowed many children who suffer epilepsy to have a quality of life. This also impacts on the whole families quality of life. The parents and siblings live in a state of constant hyper vigilance, which is not healthy. A child seizing daily causing brain damage and bed ridden or providing medicinal cannabis with a child attending school, laughing and socially interacting. There are others, with brain tumours that only medicinal cannabis can treat. Australians need to be allowed to have this plant and our government should be providing legal access for their people. It is a health issue.

If I had cancer I would want to be able to use it.

My son is ill and the medicinal cannabis would provide pain relief for a back injury caused by a car accident. The medication he was put on Lyrica, Endone and Pristiq caused a change in his bowel bacterial make up. the medication wasn't helping so the amounts were increased. So he now suffers from a parasite and bacterial infection that he has been having ongoing treatment. He was down to 52 Kilograms and bleeding from the bowel, suffering severe pain, being bed ridden and anaemic. For 6 years he has been house bound. He is 25 years old.

He has been told to not use these pharmaceutical drugs as it is making it worse. Told by his specialist. Medicinal cannabis in the form of oil in capsules and vaping allows him to stay alive at the moment . It gives him pain relief, and gives him an appetite to eat. He is out of bed. He also suffers PTSD and Aspergers. As a family we want medicinal cannabis to be legalised so he feels safe, and is able to safely access this medication.