

This public submission is from Ellomo Medical Cannabis Pty Ltd .ACN 133443615 for and on behalf of Cannabis Compassion Australia.

Founded by Ellomo Medical Cannabis Pty Ltd (Australia's oldest registered medical cannabis company), Cannabis Compassion Australia is a group of cannabis researchers, providers, patients and caregivers who have come together to work towards one goal. We are dedicated to helping the sick and informing people about the amazing healing powers and the therapeutic benefits of medical cannabis. We believe no one should have to suffer or die without access to legal medical cannabis when it is a safe and effective medication that can help so many. We are in the process of incorporating Cannabis Compassion Australia as not for profit.

We ask that the committee gives particular consideration to the following points when making its final report...

- Current cannabis laws cultivate organised crime and they are making organised criminal gangs rich. These laws HAVE to change for the benefit of all Australians.
- Medical cannabis in Australia is currently seen as a potential money pot by many business people. Thus, Australia's looming medical cannabis industry is very attractive to a lot of people who, whilst experienced in business and profit making, may not always be working in the patients' best interest as they are new to cannabis and are very limited on any in depth knowledge or expertise regarding medical cannabis.
- PATIENTS MUST COME BEFORE PROFITS.
- Importing medical cannabis is an option but there is little reason for doing so when it can be produced easily within Australia, supplying jobs to Australian's and export opportunities for Australian companies. Australian cannabis breeders have created and hold many cultivars of medical cannabis that are unique to Australia including a large number of cannabis australis cultivars.
- Unlike conventional pharmaceutical medications, cannabis is often best used in a "whole plant" form and individual cannabis cultivars can have vastly different and sometimes unique medical uses. It is imperative that Australian cannabis breeders are able to supply their own cultivars to any legal Australian cannabis industry and not have to rely on importing "new" cannabis genetics from overseas. Australian cannabis breeders need an amnesty period in order to bring these Australian medical cannabis cultivars under a legal framework.
- There are many people with years of experience and knowledge on medical cannabis in Australia who are currently operating in fear of antiquated cannabis laws that are not in the public interest. They are producing, processing and supplying cannabis medicines to patients or they are patients themselves. Many of these people have been charged for it at some time and

now carry a criminal record because of it. This should not be an automatic reason to be prevented and excluded from any form of legal licensing or other system that is introduced to regulate medical cannabis given the importance of their knowledge and experience to any future legal medical cannabis industry in Australia.

- Australian cannabis carers need an amnesty period in order to move from operating clandestinely to under a open legal framework.
- The NCPIC are a government funded cannabis information service. The NCPIC only publishes anti-cannabis information or information that shows cannabis in a negative way. This has sometimes included fabricated and misleading information. Although being involved in medical cannabis trials themselves, the NCPIC does not recognize that cannabis has medical uses beyond their own trials. Given the NCPIC was initially started with assistance from Pfizer pharmaceuticals a cynical mind would be wondering if there is more than just a conflict of interest here. We ask that this committee recommends an inquiry into the NCPIC to look into why they have published misleading and false information regarding medical cannabis and if the NCPIC need to be replaced entirely in order to supply Australia with the government funded cannabis information service they NEED and can rely on to publish all relevant cannabis information (not just anti-cannabis) that is based wholly on science and free of any bias, personal agendas or conflicting interests.

If the committee would like us to expand on any of the information supplied in this submission we would be happy to do so in writing or in person if required.

Submitted by: Director of Ellomo Medical Cannabis Pty Ltd ACN 133443615 for and on behalf of Cannabis Compassion Australia.