

**Subject:** Submission regarding the legalisation of Medicinal Cannabis  
**Date:** Wednesday, 11 March 2015 8:43:19 PM

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I write with regards to the issue of an inquiry into the legalisation of medical cannabis. For me this is an issue that has been oppressed for far too long. There is overwhelming evidence of the myriad of medical benefits that can be attained through the use of this plant. Cannabis Sativa, as a whole plant or extract thereof, has the ability to attain medical outcomes that are unable to be reproduced by any other natural or pharmaceutical product. The continued prohibition of this plant directly contributes to a failure to attempt to improve the quality of life for people suffering from a myriad of diseases including cancer, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and a range of other diseases that have been proven to benefit from access to this medicine.

I consider it completely unethical that any government, faced with the evidence of both the low potential for harm and the high potential for benefit to many, would continue to oppress access to this miracle of nature. There is no logic and no justifiable reason for this prohibition to continue. The only justifications ever made for criminalisation of the plant have been based on false notions representing dubious commercial and ethical reasonings and should be relegated to the past and designated as an error of an earlier, less-enlightened generation.

Though there still may exist a small, vocal (and in my opinion misguided) minority opposed to the legalisation of medical Cannabis, the majority of Australians, myself obviously included, are passionately supportive of seeing similar legislative change as has been taking place in the USA. I am a supporter and advocate not only for the legalisation of Cannabis as a medicine, but also as a safer, less harmful alternative to alcohol which I believe can be introduced as an alternative social tonic with a well regulated framework. This, I believe, will have major benefits to society through a reduction in the wasteful economic impacts of its prohibition and a move to allowing its already prolific use to be supported through sensible regulatory regimes with opportunities for real education and support services for those that need them.

The time for this change is now - it is with hope for all of those whose suffering may be lessened now or in the future that I make this submission.

Regards,

Peter Burnheim