

SUBMISSION TO PARLIAMENT

Inquiry: the Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014

I am writing this in desperation and hope, as both a carer and a patient. My name is [redacted]
I am a full-time carer for my 84yr old grandmother [redacted] and occasional
carer for my 56yr old aunt [redacted] who has Multiple Sclerosis and is wheelchair
bound.

My grandmother suffers terribly from many conditions that come with age, blood pressure, diabetes, arthritis etc. Last year she endured a very large operation to remove a plural mass from inside her chest and recently broke her hip (1/1/15), she is of european decent but came to Australia in the 40's. My grandmother has never been in any trouble with the law, in-fact I don't think she has ever spoken to a policeman in her entire life and is a religious lady. All this sounds very typical so far except today in Australia my grandmother, this 84 year old lady who does not have a bad bone in her body, is a criminal because she uses Medicinal Cannabis Oil to relieve her pains. My grandmother loves growing vegetables as all europeans seem to, she also grows her own cannabis because its the only way for her to get it. As you can appreciate with the laws as they stand today she could be arrested at anytime, more to the point I will probably be arrested because as she becomes less mobile I help her, I live in the same house and I also use Cannabis for chronic pain, as an opiate substitute and also for my general wellbeing as I see the benefits in my grandmother, aunt and millions of people around the world now.

My aunty [redacted] suffers incredibly with her condition Multiple Sclerosis, over the last 2 decades I have seen my aunts body breakdown before my eyes. From an agile champion sprinter in school to now wheelchair ridden and totally dependant on others to do the simplest of tasks. Since loosing most leg function and battling muscle spasticity she suffers from painful muscle spasms, and various other aches and pains. My aunt is a very intelligent lady with a masters degree in [redacted] and just as my grandmother, [redacted] has never been in trouble with the law either but in todays Australia she is a criminal because she too uses Medicinal Cannabis Oil. The profound effects this oil has on her is amazing.

What I would like you to do is consider us when you write your new laws. Please understand that we are not criminals, we merely grow a plant just as we do our herbs and veggies, just as those herbs and veggies are needed for our wellbeing so to is our Cannabis.

How should we deal with this problem? My advice in this respect is to please look at what is happening in the USA and use one of their models (why do we need a system that is 'australian' when there are systems that are working?), people in Australia need to be able to access this medicine in a safe way, whether that is through dispensaries or through a carer/patient relationship it would not matter to us, we would register under one of these schemes.

Thanks for reading.