

2 March 2015

Dear Senate Committee,

I urge you to commence trials of medical marijuana immediately, and further urge you to ensure the trials are governed by medical, not political, criteria.

One of the primary, though not so trendy, medical uses of marijuana is in the treatment of glaucoma, a disease characterised by elevated IOP (intra-ocular pressure). Elevated IOP causes permanent blindness. There have been numerous clinical trials which have shown that marijuana reduces IOP.

I was born with glaucoma, which is a one in 10,000 chance which normally causes blindness. I am blind in one eye, and have a quarter of normal vision in the other eye. I do not want to lose what little remains. Blindness is a condition which reduces life-expectancy, just like cancer does. Could you please ensure that cannabis is available for glaucoma sufferers. I have been using it medicinally since the age of 15. I am now 54. Cannabis has been extremely beneficial for me, and the benefits it bestows on me have been noted by many ophthalmologists, including the noted surgeon Dr Robert Burke, and the former head of the World Glaucoma Federation and current Head of Surgery at the Sydney Eye Hospital, Dr Ivan Goldberg.

If it wasn't for cannabis, I would be using a white stick and labrador. Cannabis's illegality is a constant nuisance because it raises prices, impedes supply, and motivates many people (including police) to steal their neighbours' herbs. Denying medication which is necessary and freely available is a crime against humanity, and the Australian people are looking forward to the day when the guilty parties in government are prosecuted.

In my own case I have proven that long-term use causes no cognitive impairment – I used cannabis for 36 years and then took an IQ test with a view to joining Mensa. I passed the test and am now a member.

I would be happy to provide more details, medical records, etc if you so desire.