

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

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Re: Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014

Submission

My experience of medicinal cannabis is limited to that of my 44 year old daughter, who has very advanced multiple sclerosis. She has experienced severe neurological pain almost daily for 13 months, and intermittently for some years prior to 2014.

For the past eight months, she has worn a 25mg Fentanyl patch, with additional doses of 25mg Ketamine lozenges and/or Panadol for breakthrough pain. (In 2010, Ketamine caused her quite frightening hallucinations, and it was withdrawn for a while.) She has daily doses of 375mg Lyrica and 30mg Baclofen, as well. Not surprisingly, she is often sedated, sometimes confused, and frequently has difficulty swallowing, speaking, and concentrating. Her quality of life is diminished.

In January this year, I obtained from NSW a small fial of oil-form medicinal cannabis. I have used this only as an analgesic, in place of Panadol and especially Ketamine, when my daughter has pain. This has relieved her pain as effectively as the drugs it has replaced, with no adverse effects and considerably less sedation.

My daughter is unlikely to live very much longer. Controlling her pain without destroying her pleasure in the few activities she is still able to enjoy is the least I can do for her.

I am deeply grateful to the NSW providers of medicinal cannabis, and I hope fervently that various forms of medicinal cannabis will be made legally available as soon as possible.