

Committee Delegates I would like to submit the following for your consideration.

Cannabis has a long history with our country, Cannabis plants were sent to Australia by Sir Joseph Banks on the First Fleet, in the hope that the new colony might grow enough Hemp to supply the British Navy with rope, and the consumption of Cannabis in Australia in the 19th century was believed to be widespread, (it was readily available for sale as cigarettes called 'Cigares de Joy' until the 1920s). Cannabis importation and use was prohibited by Federal legislation in 1926 (implementing the 1925 Geneva Convention on Opium and Other Drugs), with the States adopting similar prohibition, first in Victoria in 1928 then the other States followed suit over the following years. This prohibition model was applied with little research into Cannabis use in Australia.

We now have the opportunity to remove this Prohibition of what is becoming known once again as the most beneficial plant mankind has ever known and make it available to ALL Australians for their Nutrition and Health. Not just select parts or extracts as per the Pharmaceutical model, but the Decriminalisation of the Whole Plant for use as Medicine, food etc.

The future of medicine rests on the fundamental right we all have to use things that grow from the Earth naturally as healing agents. Why should Cannabis, a plant used for at least 10,000 years by humankind to alleviate suffering, be excluded from this inexorable mandate?

From my own personal experience:

I was diagnosed with Acute Pancreatitis for the first time in 1993 and received what was at the time the Standard medication for treatment of the pain associated with it, being Opioid based medication. Over subsequent years these Pancreatitis episodes increased in Severity and Duration despite changes in my Diet and lifestyle until I was diagnosed as having Chronic Pain from Chronic Pancreatitis with Severe Disabling Pain unresponsive to normal analgesia, the pain levels associated with this were such that I was started on Oxycontin for pain relief in 2006, after graduating from 1993 onwards through Panadeine Forte, Tramadol and other medications that proved less and less relief from the Pain despite ever increasing doses prescribed by Doctors and Specialists. The high doses of this medication I now require, due to tolerance built up over the past 9 years, to achieve at least some temporary relief from my severe pain

leave me with many side effects including, being unable to undertake employment as I am continually drowsy and forgetful - a very difficult situation for someone who grew up on a farm and has worked hard and paid taxes for the majority of their adult life, an inability to spend quality time with my children as, in their words, 'I don't want to spend time with Dad because he can't run and play with me, he is tired all the time and can't walk very far,' or 'he's no good helping me with my homework because he forgets what we're doing lots'. Try hearing that from your children and not have it affect your already tenuous mental well being (I also have been diagnosed with Depression and PTSD), constant digestive tract problems swinging from one extreme to the other, ie. Diarrhoea to Constipation, damage to internal organs especially the Liver and Kidneys from extended use of the above pain medications, plus many more symptoms associated with Chronic Pain etc. This all changed in December of 2014 when I was able to acquire some Cannabis Oil and began treating myself by orally consuming such daily, all the symptoms of my illness lessened, my pain levels became more manageable, my digestive problems became less and less to the extent that I was able to go places and not have to worry how close the nearest toilet facilities were in case of the immediate need associated with the diarrhoea, around this time I also acquired some raw Cannabis flower and started smoking it on occasion. When I had Breakthrough Pain, smoking the Cannabis lowered these levels quite dramatically far faster and for longer than the Opioid meds ever have, mentally I was dealing with life much more easily, to the extent that I stopped having to take the prescribed Anti-Depressant medication, my thinking was much clearer and I was able to do 'normal' things with my children, like go to the park and play.

So does Cannabis make a difference medically?

In my experience yes it does, and it does this extremely well, especially compared to the Pharmaceuticals I have had to take over the past 22 years. Another benefit from using the Cannabis Oil was Skin Cancers/Melanomas that had defied conventional treatments excepting surgical Excision started to die, literally flaking away and falling off, that was a bonus I was not expecting at that time. Of course all good things must end and thanks to the vagaries of supply of Cannabis in this country due to it's current illegal status I ran out of Cannabis Oil and **within less than 1 week from cessation of using the CO all my symptoms had returned.** This wouldn't happen if we all could access Cannabis legally, whether by cultivating it ourselves or purchasing it from a shop. This plant should be treated like any other foodstuff and be subject to only the regulations associated with the growing, supply and distribution of, for example Tomatoes or Grape Vines. Not treated like a Dangerous substance the way it has been for at least the past 90 years here in Australia thanks to the prohibition that was and still is based on lies, racist propoganda and the greed of a few very rich men in America. Harry Anslinger is one name that comes to mind immediately whenever anyone

talks of corruption for he was one of the main instigators of the Prohibition of Cannabis at the behest of the Rockefeller family in America, all to further the profits from their Oil and Chemical company holdings. This corruption has been endemic in the persecution of Cannabis and those who choose to use it.

Anyone who looks at the Scientific and Medical research on this plant and still denies others access to it based on the original evidence given in 1925 (which has been proven wrong numerous times) or their own moral views is in my and many others opinions corrupt and guilty of not caring for anything but themselves or profits from Unsustainable industries we now have.

I'd also like to bring your attention to some examples of the many Medicinal benefits of Cannabis:

- A study done by Dr. Donald Tashkin of UCLA, intended to find that smoking Cannabis caused lung cancer, actually found the opposite true, even in heavy smokers. Dr. Tashkin even said that the study suggested a protective effect. Tashkin has studied Cannabis for over 30 years.
- A randomized, double-blind, placebo controlled parallel group study published in the European Journal of Pain and published by the National Institute of Health showed that Cannabis aided significantly with pain and sleep in those with Neuropathic pain. The conclusion mentions that these results were found in a group of otherwise treatment-resistant patients. These results were achieved with an oral spray containing both THC and CBD. The conclusion finishes with "THC/CBD spray was well tolerated and no new safety concerns were identified."
- In 2003, the United States Department of Health and Human Services filed for and was awarded a patent

(#6630507) on Cannabinoids as an Antioxidant and Neuroprotectant. This showed that Cannabis had medicinal uses for ischemic, age-related, inflammatory, and autoimmune diseases. Cannabinoids limit neurological damage following ischemic insults, such as Stroke or Trauma, and prevent Neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and HIV Dementia.

- Some Cannabinoids inhibit tumor growth and eliminate cancer cells. THC is included in those Cannabinoids. The 1972 "Report of the National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Abuse" from the Schaffer Group showed that compounds from Cannabis stopped cancer in laboratory rats.
- Cannabis was found by Dr. Kirsten Mueller-Vahl of Hanover Medical College in Germany to reduce symptoms of Tourette's syndrome.
- Cannabis was found to be an Antispasmodic as early as 1839, when William B. O'Shaughnessy (of Edinburgh Medical School) used it to stop convulsions in infants, as well as muscle spasms caused by Tetanus and Rabies. He also used it to relieve Rheumatism.
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder related nightmares were reduced in 72% of people using Cannabinoids in a 2009 study published in CNS Neuroscience & Therapeutics. Scientists from the University of Michigan, Harvard Medical School and the University of Illinois at Chicago have confirmed that THC affects the storage and extinction of fearful memories in human subjects. University of Arizona

studies have also shown Cannabis to be a treatment for PTSD.

- In 1973 the New England Journal of Medicine stated that “Marihuana smoke, unlike cigarette smoke, causes Broncho-dilation rather than Broncho-constriction [narrowing of the air passages] and, unlike opiates, does not cause central respiratory depression.” Cannabis is also known to be an Anti-inflammatory. Broncho-dilators and Anti-inflammatories make up a large portion of Asthma inhalers. Smoke has negative effects, but the modern Cannabis vaporizers give Asthmatics relief without the restlessness, headaches, nausea, and even seizures that can be caused by inhalers and nebulisers. They also find relief from Cannabis edibles and extracts.
- Cannabis has been found to treat ADD and ADHD without any of the negative side effects of Ritalin. A study published in the journal Neurology done by Ph.D. Researchers drew conclusions indicating that the human body may naturally produce more Endocannabinoids in an attempt to counter the symptoms of ADHD, leading researchers to believe that the Endocannabinoid system could be effectively targeted in the treatment of this disorder.
- Cannabinoids reduced Infarct (area of tissue that undergoes Necrosis as a result of obstruction of local blood supply) size by 66% in a study from Cardiac Echo Lab, Massachusetts General Hospital. This suggests that Cannabis can prevent heart-attacks.

- Cannabinoids reduce Insulin Dependent Diabetes by 58%. A study published in the American Journal of Physiology shows how cannabinoids can regulate weight and reduce diabetes.
- Dr. Robert Melamede World Health Organization commissioned a team of experts to compare the health and societal consequences of marijuana use compared to other controlled substances, including alcohol, nicotine and opiates. After quantifying the harms associated with each substance, researchers concluded: "Overall, most of these risks (associated with marijuana) are small to moderate in size. In aggregate they are unlikely to produce public health problems comparable in scale to those currently produced by alcohol and tobacco."
- A growing body of research on Cannabis-related substitution suggests that for many patients Cannabis is not only an effective medicine, but also a potential exit drug to problematic substance use. A study done by researchers at the Universities of Colorado, Montana State and Oregon, found that the legalization of medical marijuana resulted in a decrease in alcohol consumption, and was a factor in a decline in auto accident fatalities.
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- A recent review by Scholars from the Institute Biology Leiden, Leiden University, Netherlands highlighted 37 different randomized, double blind, placebo-controlled clinical studies on the medicinal uses of Cannabis done between the years 2005-2009. These studies show Cannabis to be useful for: Neuropathic/ Chronic/ Postoperative/ Inflammatory/ Experimental pain, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Multiple Sclerosis and Spasticity, HIV/AIDS, Glaucoma, Intestinal Dysfunction, Fibromyalgia, Nausea/Vomiting/

Appetite, Schizophrenia, and Hepatitis C. Cannabis helps with symptoms of Crohn's Disease and Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS), as well as any other disease causing nausea, abdominal pain (including PMS), or diarrhoea. In placebo controlled clinical trial data published in the journal *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*; smoked Cannabis caused a complete remission of Crohn's symptoms in 45% of subjects, and a 50% reduction in symptoms in another 45%. The Cannabis cigarettes they smoked contained Cannabis testing at 23% THC.

- According to PubMed, there are over 26,000 published scientific studies or reviews of Cannabis. Over 1,450 peer-reviewed papers were published in 2013 alone.
- In the 1820s, several American medical societies collaborated to create the first edition of the *United States Pharmacopoeia (U.S.P.)*. This book identified and standardized the botanical drugs in medical use. It was a medical cookbook; giving the exact formula, parts of the plant, and the exact method of preparation of base drugs for pharmaceutical use. It mentioned Cannabis numerous times until 1942 when it was removed by order of the US Government.
- Cannabis Compassion Studies conducted in America at the University of California Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research, San Diego, and conducted under the auspices of the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the Drug Enforcement Administration, conclude that the methods of Smoking, Vaporizing, and Oral

Mucosal sprays are needed to achieve predictable blood levels and appropriate Titration. These same studies show that Cannabis is useful for nausea and vomiting, as well as painful peripheral Neuropathy and Muscle Spasticity from ailments including Multiple Sclerosis. The same studies mentioned above conclude that: "The classification of marijuana as a Schedule I drug as well as the continuing controversy as to whether or not cannabis is of medical value are obstacles to medical progress in this area." Based on evidence currently available the Schedule I classification is not tenable; it is not accurate that Cannabis has no medical value, or that information on safety is lacking."

Cannabis clinician Dr. William Courtney, recommends drinking 4 – 8 ounces of raw flower and leaf juice from any Hemp plant, 5 mg of Cannabidiol (CBD) per kg of body weight, a salad of Hemp seed sprouts and 50 mg of THC taken in 5 daily doses. This is because each form has a distinct and individual set of benefits.

Even the instinct towards recreational use – think of the etymology: to re-create – should be allowed, as long as those who choose to use Cannabis instead of tobacco and alcohol (and prescription drugs) do not cause harm to themselves or others.

How many deaths are attributed to Cannabis each year versus these other societally approved recreational agents? Not to mention prescription drugs, which are the 3rd leading cause of death in the developed world? And understanding the healing benefits of Cannabis, how many deaths can be attributed to Cannabis prohibition each year?

Thank you for your time and please consider the above and all other Scientific and Medical Research and Studies when making your decision, do not forget the Voters are watching you very closely.