

Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014

13/03/2015

Committee Secretary

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

PO BOX 6100

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

RE: The Moderator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014

Dear Committee Delegates,

I suffer from Crohn's Disease (Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) characterised by chronic intestinal inflammation. The two major types of IBD are Crohn's Disease (CD) and Ulcerative Colitis (UC)).

"The goals of current treatment strategies are to control inflammation, relieve symptoms and correct nutritional deficiencies. At this time, treatment can help control the disease, but there is **no cure**. Patients with Crohn's Disease may need medical care for a long time with regular doctor visits to monitor the condition" (http://www.cdd.com.au/pages/disease_info/crohns_disease.html).

I have allergies to Lactose, MSG, yeast, wheat, some pharmaceuticals and alcohol.

After many years of increasing medication such as steroids cortisone which has numerous negative effects on the body and suffering debilitating states of sickness where I was unable to leave the house I investigated Cannabis as there was discussions around the world about its anti-inflammatory properties as well as its ability to manage pain and improve quality of life in those who are suffering.

Since consuming in late 2012 I have successfully improved my quality of life dramatically, no longer having to inject myself fortnightly with HUMIRA (adalimumab) which I was part of the clinical trial being so desperate to fix my stomach, the side effects of this drug is still unknown and while my gastroenterologist still prescribes me 6-MP - Mercaptopurine I am reluctant to keep using it as an anti-cancer medication.

I would never smoke and thankfully with technology now available it is possible to consume Medical Cannabis in a variety of ways such as infused coconut oil, vaporisation, tinctures etc.

My life has started fresh with my improved health I have been able to attend University and pursue a degree, in my biological studies we study Endocannabinoids which are neurotransmitters that are similar to delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) the main psychoactive constituent of Marijuana.

I'm writing to you the current Medicinal Cannabis bill is too limited.

The Moderator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill is based on the models of Canada/Israel/Holland as opposed to the American Dispensary system, which if you look at Colorado and Los Angeles work extremely well for medical patients.

It is important that growers and suppliers are able to produce the hundreds of different strains (Sativa/Indica/Hybrid) of Cannabis, having educated organisations and scientists delivering to patients the correct information of effects in order to manage their symptoms and life. For instance there is a certain strain that you would take in the morning than at night – similar to a cold flu tablet for day / night.

As different strains of cannabis are effective for different diseases, similar to pharmaceuticals, where many drugs available for any given illness or disease but a Dr would recommend a brand and dosage you would have a similar relationship with Cannabis.

There are more than 60 Cannabinoids and over 200 terpenes (smells/colour) in Cannabis and every one of these are therapeutically 'active compounds'. Each strain of Cannabis has vastly different proportions of Cannabinoids & Terpenoids which is why we need to be "strain specific" when discussing Cannabis as a Medicine, the very reason we must have 'Whole Plant Medicine' and not extracts or pre-made oils, we need Cannabis Medicine Specialists who can tailor Cannabis medicine to their patients the same way other medications are tailored to patient needs. The chemical compounds in Cannabis change with how the plant is processed and administered, potential therapeutic benefits vary depending on how the plant is administered: raw, heated or aged. Cannabis Medicine can be administered as an alcohol, glycerine or oil based tincture, Cannabis Oil (RSO & BHO – the cancer curing oils), in edible products made from Cannabutter or oil, Tea, Salve, Creams and lotions , the Cannabis tincture or Oil can be made into suppositories and the dried plant material or resin extract vaporized.

Kind regards