

I wish to make a submission into the inquiry for the use of Cannabis for medical use in Queensland.

I am communicating to you on compassionate grounds to respectfully ask you for your support regarding the legalization of Medical Cannabis.

To give you a little bit of background on myself, I have Neuroendocrine Tumours of the Pancreas.

Neuroendocrine tumours are some of the rarest forms of cancer with approximately 1 in 100,000 people being affected per year in the general population. For those that don't know, this is the same medical condition Steve Jobs died from. The only procedure that is available to me through the Medical Field is continued operations to try to remove these as they continue to grow in differing organs in my Endocrine System.

To complicate the issue I also have MEN1 – Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia1 – in brief it's a rare condition associated with tumors of the endocrine. The most common of these tumours involve the parathyroid glands (which I have already had removed), the pancreas, and pituitary.

The most challenging treatment issues relate to the pancreatic islet cell tumors - the tiny clusters of cells scattered throughout the pancreas. Removal of the pancreas will cause a condition that can lead to significant health problems and it will be necessary to take pancreatic supplements for the rest of my life, however long that is. Doctors must balance the benefits of pancreatic removal in a person with MEN1 against the risks.

Unfortunately these surgeries produce more complications than the actual symptoms of the tumours themselves. With patients, often having major corrective surgeries for years after, if the patient survives. The drugs given to patients also provide little comfort and or long term survival.

At the moment medical intervention is there to help purely with the symptoms, not as a cure for this.

Political science seems to think that they have the monopoly on health. More often than not, it's the patients that are left to research for themselves all of the options that can be of benefit to them.

I want to be able to have the choice to access ALL medicinal interventions for my life.

I take an active role in my health and live a purely organic, plant based, lifestyle without dairy, gluten, preservatives, highly processed, refined sugars or GMO foods. I know that having a good food lifestyle plays a huge role in healing the body. I have lived for the past 2 years using this holistic approach to my health and have done a lot of research into the benefits of Medicinal Cannabis in that time.

I believe that Medicinal Cannabis must be used as a WHOLE plant therapy to be of any use to me or any other patient living with chronic illness. Having legal access to Medicinal Cannabis will allow me a much longer and healthier life.

Medicinal Cannabis has been proven to reduce and cure tumours in the endocrine system of the body.

*A study published in The American Journal of Cancer determined that cannabinoid receptors are expressed in human pancreatic tumour cell lines and tumour biopsies at a much higher level than in normal pancreatic tissue. Results showed that cannabinoid administration reduced the growth of tumour cells, and also inhibited the spreading of pancreatic tumour cells.

Holding up the progress of legalising medicinal cannabis, is wasting time. As patients, we just DO NOT have that time to waste. I don't want my family to hear in 2 or 3 years' time that finally the laws have changed in our favour but they don't have me, or for that matter most of us here today, to celebrate.

I don't want to break the law. It is something I have never had to do before. But I feel I have no choice, because I want to live and be with my family for as long as possible.

Knowing this plant is key to the reduction and cure of most illnesses and diseases, I want to be able to have the freedom of using this plant without feeling like I am a criminal.

I have to ask you to place yourself in this position and with all the research already done in other countries, know that this plant will save my life and that of so many others who are battling with their illness every day.

We just want our politicians to wake up and make a stand. To be able to understand the benefits of Medicinal Cannabis, you need to listen to the patients who are researching and reading about the trials that have already been in place in other countries and the successes they have had for all illnesses, not just terminal.

The burden of having to cope with a chronic or terminal illness is hard enough, without the added pressure of the fear of prosecution for using a plant, because in reality, that is ALL it is. In my opinion it is a crime that the Australian Government does not see Medicinal Cannabis for what it is, a WHOLE plant that saves lives.

We are not criminals. We just want the right to live.

Lester Grinspoon, a Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, wrote in 2007 - "The mountain of accumulated anecdotal evidence that pointed the way to clinical studies also strongly suggests there are a number of other devastating disorders and symptoms for which cannabis has been used for centuries; Cannabis is effective at relieving nausea and vomiting, appetite loss, certain types of pain and other chronic illness. And it is extraordinarily safe, safer than most medicines prescribed every day.

If cannabis were a new discovery rather than a well-known substance carrying cultural and political baggage, it would be hailed as a wonder drug.

There are countless scientific studies done on the use of the WHOLE plant and its benefits for all conditions. This is just 2 of them based on my illness.

Scientific Studies

<http://www.ilknowledge.com/2015/01/scientists-discover-that-cannabis-can.html>

<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/cam/cannabis/healthprofessional/page4>

I want to express my concerns about the critical need for therapeutic cannabis being made available to a wider range of people who are chronically sick, AND NOT just the terminally ill.

I just want to be able to access it myself, growing my own Cannabis medicine in my garden in a similar way that I grow my vegetables to sustain my lifestyle. And above all, the last thing I do not want, is to be deemed criminal just because I want to help myself to live a normal life when I start using this ancient natural herbal plant/vegetable in the very near future.

Accordingly, I would sincerely appreciate your confirmation of this communication, and I look forward to a future where all humans are treated equal when trying to maintain quality of life - Thank you for your time.