

Subject: Regulator of Medical Cannabis Bill 2014 Enquiry
Date: Tuesday, 31 March 2015 4:37:06 PM

Dear Ms Dunstone,

I spoke to the Enquiry this afternoon on behalf of the RACP submission and the question of the use of Cannabis products in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) came up in part because I had compared cannabis plant to other traditional herbs.

The question was asked as to whether cannabis itself was used much in TCM.

My response had to be that I was unaware of the use of cannabis in TCM practice. My own reading in relation to TCM has related to Liver disease in particular and this may have limited my view of use for other ailments.

I have subsequently chased this topic up and while there is very limited published work in Western Journals it is clear that cannabis is one of 50 “fundamental” herbs used for a wide range of conditions. Further reading highlights the facts raised in our discussion by teleconference, namely that the plant is a complex product with many constituents. The Chinese have long recognized the potential toxicity of parts of the plant and the risks of overdosing with inaccurate dosing of the “safer” components.

I submit this information to clarify the situation with Cannabis and TCM

Yours sincerely

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