

**Submission  
No 105**

**INQUIRY INTO USE OF CANNABIS FOR MEDICAL  
PURPOSES**

**Name:** Mr Andy Putnam

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A SUBMISSION TO  
THE INQUIRY INTO THE USE OF CANNABIS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

To the members of General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

9<sup>th</sup> of February 2013

Cannabis has been used and documented for medical purposes for millennia. In that time a variety of cultures utilised it for that purpose. By the nineteenth century opium and cannabis were the most common components of patented western medicine. This trend continued into the twentieth century.

The prohibition of cannabis led to the virtual end of all hemp products for decades. It was part of a process that saw us emerge into a more synthetic world.

Our pharmacopoeia however requires expansion rather than contraction. Research in the past twenty years has largely verified medicinal qualities recognised by previous generations. Further to that researchers have found a wealth of additional information supporting the notion that cannabis can be administered for medical purposes with safety and efficacy.

Due to a diving accident thirty years ago, I suffered serious, but not life changing vertebrae damage. Administration of cannabis releases muscle tension and eases pain. Most importantly because of cannabis receptors contained within our vertebrae it also allows for greater mobility, something standard pain killers are unable to do.

Yours Sincerely

Andy Putnam

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