

Submission
No 106

INQUIRY INTO USE OF CANNABIS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially Confidential

Dear inquiry members. I realize this is a late submission and apologize for that. However I do hope you will still read my submission. Let me start by saying that I do hold you to your promise of discretion and anonymity in this issue, and trust that the police won't turn up kicking in the doors. My personal experience in the medical uses of cannabis is based on factual evidence gathered from close friends and family members. I am aware that two diabetics use marijuana to lower and stabilize their blood sugar levels. Fact. I have seen the test results on the b.s.l. testing units. It's medically undeniable. As with any illness and subsequent medication, I am not suggesting cannabis is some miracle which will work identically for every patient, nor that it is appropriate for all sufferers of the same conditions. However we are talking about our own observations and experiences, so that is all I am referring to. Both these people also have less problems sleeping a decent night's sleep when using cannabis and less stress overall, resulting in a better outlook on their illnesses and life in general. Not to mention how much less strain these two patients alone are putting on an already overworked medical system. As you may be aware, diabetes is getting more common every year, and therefore necessarily chewing up more and more of the health funding allocated to hospitals, clinics, and specialists.

My next example is my mother-in-law. She passed away from cancer. She was in agony the last few months. She couldn't eat. She couldn't sleep unless she was sedated or so unwell she could barely move. She went from an 80 kilo nanna to a 47 kilo ghost. During her illness she repeatedly asked about the effects of cannabis on cancer sufferers, would it help her eat or sleep? She was years old and desperate to try this plant about which she had heard such promise of relief. There was no possibility of her ever getting better. She accepted that. She could not accept that after giving children to this country, working her whole life, not a single conviction nor so much as a traffic fine, volunteering with respected charities in her retirement, and respecting and living by the law in our country her entire life, that she would be denied the possibility of compassion and any easing of her unbearable suffering at the very end of her life. Needless to say, the current laws prolonged the agony of a wonderful Australian lady. Truly shameful.

My final example is a man suffering a stomach condition, partly brought on by medication he was prescribed for the treatment and pain of a workplace injury suffered over years ago, and partly by the mental stress, trauma and bullying he has suffered at the hands of Allianz insurance co and Workcover since the original injury in . The secondary injury (the stomach condition) has left him unable to take most forms of chemical medicine, and ultimately now with no reprieve from the pain and disability of his original injury, and also no way to treat the stomach condition. Actually there IS a way, but it's a surgery to repair the stomach condition, and the insurance company is currently refusing to pay, and denying the existence of the stomach condition despite physical and medical evidence and the sighting and manual handling of the stomach volvulus during a hernia repair operation. The surgeon was disappointed he was unable to repair the volvulus while he was holding it in his hands but Allianz refused to authorize the procedure when it was requested prior to the hernia op. Both conditions had been positively identified prior to the hernia repair. Allianz said no. After the surgeon repaired the hernia and repeated his request for a volvulus repair, Allianz said no. So here he sits, wasting away, hideous stomach and bowel pain, mentally stressed to breaking point (Allianz won't pay for a psychologist either, and this man is paid so little from Allianz he cannot afford to bear the cost.) and the one natural medicine that helps his physical and mental state puts him at risk of being persecuted, prosecuted, being falsely labelled a criminal, and being smashed with a fine that would leave him in an even more unsustainable financial situation!

The current laws are making criminals out of ill people who have no other recourse.

The laws are cruel and pointless. They fill the jails with small time smokers.

They allow all the associated costs of violence, illness, crime, and carnage that comes automatically with the levels of alcohol available and consumed every day in Australia to seem government sanctioned, approved and accepted, while innocent people suffer and die because of a denial of their right to medicine.

Shame!

As a closing point, i would like to point out that the cannabis users all unanimously agree that cannabis doesnt make them paranoid. The laws and the police make them fearful of unfair and unreasonable persecution. Thats different to paranoia, i think. I also think its a pretty fair call on their behalf.

Thankyou for taking the time to read my submission. I truly hope it helps to change the current laws which, under the pretence of protecting us all, are so cruelly and unecessarily hurting so many good decent Australians.

Yours sincerely, but not without some fear of persecution for my views;