

**Submission
No 77**

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

Name: Mr John Malouf

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Committee of the New South Wales Parliament
Examining Medical Marijuana February 15th 2013

As a pharmacist, it is our responsibility to assist in the treatment of those who are ill and not impede their treatment. Pharmacists have a responsibility to assist the ill to the best of their ability.

Pharmacists have a duty' to review the medical and scientific literature and evidence available.

- Before any agreement to support the introduction of marijuana to treat the sick, it must be agreed that the substance is relatively safe and superior to any other treatment, in use. If this drug cannot pass this test, it cannot be supported, nor should it be.
- Any supporters who promote the use of so-called medical marijuana should have knowledge of the pharmacological and physiological properties of the drug. They must have knowledge of the health and community implications and issues concerning cannabis. They must have some knowledge of other medical treatments, so they can be compared to marijuana. A committee should not and cannot make recommendations on health matters, otherwise it fails in its responsibility. Only then can they recommend to an Expert Advisory Group on their findings.
- In the case of cannabis the committee must be aware of any detrimental effects of cannabis can have on the user.
- The committee will, of course, be aware of the pro-pot-lobby, who are driving this move to de-regulate this drug. If it is to be given any degree of credibility, then the movement should be coming from the medical professions. Such is not the case. Too often in the past, deregulation and approval has been given

to other drugs, with disastrous results. Among these are many that are now abandoned .

- *The Handbook for Medical Practitioners and Other Health Workers* ISBN 0644 29166 4 from the Commonwealth of Australia they warn of the deleterious health consequences of cannabis use .
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- Reproductive Effects, impaired fertility, decrease in libido, loss of normal sex drive and infertility.
- Respiratory effects, including lung cancer.
- Cardiovascular effects.
- Neuropsychiatric Complications, panic, paranoia depression, paranoid schizophrenia, dissociation of ideas distortions of time and space, apathy and antisocial behaviour
- Delayment of maturation process.
- Tolerance
- Dependence

You may not be aware be aware, that a financier who has funded a pro-legalisation lobby has advised that the best way to get this drug legalized is to concentrate on its medical benefits, otherwise he will not fund their efforts.

Look to what group(s) and sources are most adamant into promoting “medical marijuana” and question, is not this, the first step towards legalization.

John Marouf