



**mcua**

Medical Cannabis Users Association of Australia

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## ***AMA, STOP CALLING OUR POT BLACK***

**MCUA, Medical Cannabis Users Association of Australia, and its 12,000+ member base suggest that doctors aren't really necessary for patients to achieve success with medicinal cannabis, all that's required is soil, sun and water.**

AMAA President Chris Zappala takes aim at medicinal cannabis, citing lack of evidence on long term effects, and stands with Queensland doctors unwilling to prescribe medicinal cannabis, ABC 18th January 2017. AMAA vice president Wayne Herdy then followed suit two days later with some comments on cannabis that literally made no sense, Sunshine Coast Daily 20th January 2017. We think he meant cannabinoids, rather than cannabidiols.

Perhaps AMAA is unaware that medicinal cannabis has now been legal in the state of California for more than 20 years, and if that does not stand as long term evidence then nothing will. There have been no deaths directly associated with Cannabis, and California is now moving towards complete legalisation. MCUA suggest that AMAA should focus its attention on the dangers of prescription medications being that they kill twice as many Australians every year as all illicit drugs combined, and in this scenario, doctors are the facilitators.

MCUA spokesperson Deb Lynch said, "We find it alarming that AMAA appears to be encouraging doctors in Queensland to not prescribe medicinal cannabis. What we have found, from members treating children with epilepsy, is that these children thrive on medicinal cannabis. Often the number of seizures these children are suffering everyday reduces dramatically, and these patients are also able to sometimes completely reduce dependency on very harmful pharmaceutical drugs. This is life changing for these young patients because every seizure they have, could be their last. Some MCUA members have now been successfully treating their children with medicinal cannabis for years, with no negative side effects at all."

It is time the AMA stopped demonising cannabis, because we all know the real demon is dangerous pharmaceuticals. If desperate parents and seriously ill Australians are adequately able to educate themselves on medicinal cannabis, then qualified doctors should be able to also. And, if the health of their patients is truly important, doctors must start educating themselves on medicinal cannabis now because, unlike pharmaceuticals, cannabis is remarkably nontoxic and remarkably effective.

Deb Lynch said, "Wayne Herdy implied that medicinal cannabis offers limited improvement to limited health conditions, but actually the opposite is true. Our member base is large and diverse and I am yet to encounter a patient that has not benefited from medicinal cannabis, regardless of their condition. I am also concerned that the medical profession has a large role in medicinal cannabis policy development but they obviously lack the knowledge and experience required for the job."

For media interviews with MCUA Spokesperson Deb Lynch please call 0432 204 727

For media interviews with parents successfully treating children with epilepsy, please contact Deb Lynch who can then refer you on.

Thank you,

Deb Lynch

Secretary