



mcua

MEDICAL CANNABIS USERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

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RALLY – PARLIAMENT HOUSE WEDNESDAY 15/6/2016

Over a year has passed since Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk announced Queensland would join in the NSW Government Cannabis trial for children with epilepsy. The govt said it was committed to the trial because it didnt want Queensland families to miss the opportunities this trial may offer for children

After pulling the plug on sharing the NSW trials the government decided to go it alone with a study to be carried out at Brisbane's Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. The govt committed \$3 million to this trial, because they "are listening to Queenslanders".

The trial was due to begin earlier this year.

But, here we are mid year and we still have not heard a peep about a trial. Where is their commitment, where is the \$3 million and where is the trial?

"We have several thousand people in this state covertly using herbal cannabis already," said Deb Lynch national secretary of the Medical Cannabis Users Association of Australia Inc (MCUA) and lead Qld Senate candidate for Drug Law Reform in the upcoming election. "The state govt's new bill proposes that we go begging a bureaucrat for permission to use it; and if we are deemed suitable, we will become an "authorised" patient who can get cannabis products only from an "authorised" prescriber thru and "authorised" dispenser. And this is their idea of simplifying the process and getting cannabis medicine to those who need it."

So far only one person in this state has been allowed legal access to medical cannabis, and only after a 4 yr long battle and a mountain of paper shuffling. This is not good enough - Queenslanders deserve better."

Qld representatives of the MCUA have been lobbying the the Govt for access to cannabis medicine since before the last Sate election and they are growing tired of the buck passing and stalling.

"Our members are sick of living in fear. In fear of the law and the prospect of being prosecuted for their choice of medical treatment. They have a right to access safe and effective medicine and their right is being abused. This needs to stop. These people are not criminals and should not be treated as such" said Mrs Lynch.

Executive Committee Members of the MCUA will be meeting with several shadow Ministers on Wednesday this week to discuss these issues and will be putting a proposal forward to help speed up the process. They will be supported by MCUA members who will rally outside Parliament House from 12 mid day to demand action be taken on this issue. T

he Drug Law Reform Candidates from Qld and NSW will be among the speakers and the public are invited to join us to show support for legal access to Cannabis medicine for all who need it.