

**THE FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS MADE BY MCUA MEMBERS FOR INCLUSION IN OUR SUBMISSION**

**Matt Pallett** The principle of proportionality of perceived harms dictates that there should be no stricter a regime of control on cannabis than there is on grapes. In their raw form neither is psychoactive. If you ferment or distill grapes they become psychoactive. If you 'cook' cannabis it becomes psychoactive. Therefore given the 'harms' caused in society the regime to control cannabis can be no more restrictive than that applying to grapes.

I can grow as many grapes as I need with no licence, I can make those grapes into wine I still do not need a licence. I can share that wine with friend and family still with no need of licence. But as has been shown recently with a home brewer. I must be sure I know what I am doing or I could be jailed if I make a batch that causes harm.

Only if I want to sell my products commercially do I need a licence. I must then also prove my products meet food safety standards ie not tainted and Label product for % actives.

From there market forces will control who the commercial sellers are and those who produce crap that does not provide what is claimed will simply go out of business.

Cost of a liquor licence is based on amount of product produced same could easily apply to cannabis

It is one of the many myths around the war on drugs that the reason that the government will not repeal prohibition is that they cannot make money out of it if everyone can grow at home. This is pure bunkum. Everyone is currently free to grow there own tomatoes even though tomato leaves are deadly poison. Most people do not grow their own tomatoes and I do not see commercial tomato growers going broke because of back yard growers. Same goes for all food plants. Cannabis is no different. If tomorrow they repealed prohibition and allowed home grow most people who would use cannabis will NOT grow their own and would rely on commercial supply to provide their needs, the government would get it's tax cut of the vast majority of cannabis used. Based on a 10% GST alone would raise hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Myth busted

**Gary Goodwin** Still way out of reach. Unless you fit the bill and get the OK, your still doing a illegal activity. Tis a start but far from what the community wants ... Chief Executive has the decision.. Still sux.. Any doctor should have the right to prescribe, or give consent to self medicate. Even recognised naturapaths should be able to prescribe.. Seems the chief is going to be busy

**Craig Goodwin** The sole purpose of this miracle plant is to cure,heal and save and as a training minister its my duty to God and my fellow man to see this plant come forth to its rightful place, I have already cured myself (of liver cancer and hep c) & many others I have been jailed and worst of all I have seen countless Numbers of beautiful people die some who became close and dear friends of me and my family because they are denied access and their carers are dragged through the legal system all to the detriment of our community and the patients. No I will never bow to this corruption and I will Defy until cannabis is free ...During my cancer treatment the doctors knew I was using canna oil and smoking cannabis for pain relief and nausea, they also know that canna oil helped repair my liver from 70% damaged to 8% in 2 years now I am 4th year in total remission with no cancer at all, I am in the best health I've ever been thanks to cannabis

**Kaneh Bosm** it was called. God gave it to Moses saying here go forth and cure the world with this plant I give you. Was mixed with olive oil, cinnamon and myrrh all anti-inflammatory ... Still used as the number one healing in many Far & Middle East countries the leaf emblem on many ancient tombs and palaces. Works very well. These countries cannot afford big pharma ..... a blessing in disguise !! ..The name weed is unfair however it grows strong, tall and needs less water (I guess weed like). Grows wild along the road side in many places. A weed means a plant out of place.....not Cannabis it is not, it grows tall and quick and strong as its desperately needed by man kind again

**David Carter** I wish it wasn't so hard for me to obtain the medicine of my choice. I've only just found out a week ago (14/6/16) I've got pancreatic cancer and would like to try medical cannabis oil but it's just so hard at the moment. If we grow we run the risk of been busted an face heavy fines/jail time. Either one is not good considering what I have an to get it through someone else you have to put a lot of faith in that it's done right. It would be so much easier if we could just grow it ourself. It's our life we should have the right to seek what ever medical treatment treatment we want not what you's want ...cancer is not going to wait for you to "authorise me" so i am not waiting either .. time is of the essence :/ and patients like myself need to be protected from prosecution = we are not criminals we just want a chance at life

**Michelle Stubbs** Never in my life have I felt so disgusted with Government...Fighting for access to a plant, that cannot possibly kill you, for my seriously ill only child, because conventional medicine has nothing to help her, has left me utterly disconnected from government...Rather than directing my energy towards her care and support, I am compelled to fight government for access to medicine...This situation is sickening...As an adult, I can 'legally' kill myself with alcohol, tobacco and pharmaceuticals, but I am forbidden from giving my daughter medicinal cannabis...This troubles me more than you can possibly imagine...You rely on doctors in relation to this issue, doctors who don't even know that we have an endocannabinoid system, can you explain that...You offer up shallow options in the form of pharma cannabis that nobody wants, and deny so many sick people true help and relief...You are so lost...Your sole purpose is to protect us, not deny us that which cannot harm us...You are not listening, you think you know better, but you are deeply wrong...You disgust me..

**Deborah Taylor** currently am in fentanyl patches for pain. I change them every 48 hours yet begin to go throuhh horrible withdrawals at about 36 hours. I have endone for breakthrough pain. I hate the side effects. I hate being addicted to this stuff. Even with it I am in pain. I cant afford cannabis and I know it works better for my pain and nausea I get from the endone. It is all that helps with the horrible withdrawals. Financially I cant afford the oil that will help me. Ive tried to get off these addictive drugs and the withdrawals made me want to die. Ive had an overdose on the fentanyl when the doctors upped my dose and that scares me as the doctors want to double my dose again to try and counteract this pain and withdrawals. I suffer from chronic pain lupus fibromaylgia ADHD and PTSD. My doctors and specialists agree that for me and my weird reactions to most drugs that cannabis would be the best for me and will prescribe it for me when they are allowed to. Until then I cant afford the black market so am stuck with these addictive drugs that are destroying my mind and body

**Janet Ware-Watson** Been addicted to Morphine and endone. Went cold turkey with both. It's been proven that morphine only works on 10% of cases. It did nothing for my pain. I have osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, degenerative hip disease (NO cartilidge in either hip) right ankle that is crushing and collapsing in on itself. I live with pain level 8-8.5 on a daily basis. And I have a high pain threshold. The ONLY thing that helps relieve the pain enough do I can sleep is my nightly joint/s. I challenge any politician to live with pain levels like my own and see how they cope on these stupid opiates. They couldn't do it. My pain level 6 is like most people's pain level 10. My doctors/specialists/psychs know I smoke it. In fact I've had respiratory specialists recommend I smoke it

**Ken Foley** I keep using it to help with my pain and the depression that comes with 24/7 chronic pain. There are times i want to eat a bullet because of the pain ( I never would ) but i smoke some Cannabis and my spasms lessen and my pain decreases a bit and my muscles relax, and i don't get so down. i can continue with my counselling studies. This is stuff i could not do on the opiates i was on before.....

**Kim Dundon** When you rely on a car for work and transportation you cant use cannabis "against the law " so one is left with the alternative pharmaceutical drugs so what can one do? - use cannabis and hope you dont get drug tested while driving or lose your job because of illegal drug use. Just a slippery slope to the dole queue and lose of license.

**Wayne Holly** Try Fentanyl, worse...currently weaning off it, 100 times stronger than morphine and 40-50% stronger than pharmaceutical heroin.. Still no relief, tinctures, edibles and vaping helps more than anything. I can eat,smoke, vape to oblivion and then rest, sleep and relax during a severe flare up.( sciatica)..thank nature for cannabis .. chronic pain 30 years..cannabis has been my main medicine for the whole period..I've learnt to make tinctures, how to decarb for cooking..vaping and numerous other ways of ingesting cannabis.

**Renee Rainbow** I am a migraine sufferer and I can eat dozens of over the counter and prescription based painkillers when I have one, and they won't even touch the sides. I tried vaping a few months ago, and I couldn't believe how well it worked. (Research has shown that migraine is caused by an endo-cannabinoid deficiency)

**Andrew Stanstuck** There is no such thing as cannabis addiction as cannabis does not change the body's physiology (like heroin or alcohol) addiction is a physical condition NOT a psychological one, (hence sex exercise & video games are not addictions) if you suddenly cease using you will have physical reactions (cramps headache nausea convulsions etc...)

**Elizabeth Pallett** These laws (prohibiting access to cannabis) have always been based entirely on lies. Not one claim of Governments or prohibitionist is true, the plant is safer than water and essential for total health of all beings that have a spine, from conception to the grave. Government should only have control in commercial supply, other than that it gets treated just like any other food plant, people can grow it or purchase it over the counter.

**Kylie Donaghy** Simply put our (Aussie) government officials need to listen & talk to these people (compassionate providers out here now) about their experiences, knowledge & findings. Along with the people they are helping with the product. Credibility needs to be gained but also compassion about real solutions for the benefit of the growers and their customers. It needs to stay real for & by the people who believed and really care about improving the quality of life of others. This shouldn't be about money, it should be about making a real difference & doing it right for all who are already risking their freedom to help others against these unlawful human rights violations. The government needs people to be healthier and to also have jobs/taxable income. Keeping this industry in the hands of people/growers etc meets both of these goals. At the end of the day like any other plant or food it should be made free again for all, otherwise our government is no better than Monsanto!

**Grant Lear** Of course!! So as the pages of history has it... The criminals that kept this plant alive, in their closets, at the risk of their own liberties will now be legally robbed. **If it weren't for the 'criminals' this remedy/cure would be still hidden from the masses.** Luckily, our compassionate governments and corporations are here to help everyone... Whilst taking all the thanks, keeping the Robin Hoods classified as criminal scum

**RE SYNTHETIC Cannabis**

**Adrian Columb** I've tried **Marinol (aka THC) for my ADHD but didn't work nearly as well as cannabis itself...** without the CBD etc in concert it was actually a bit too much stimulation. Nabilone I'm wary of because it's not a copy of a natural cannabinoid but if it really does mimic THC in effect then I'm willing to trial it if I ever get access. Dronabinol is a direct copy of THC though and definitely on my list of things to get access to... I suspect it will be like Marinol though so I would probably supplement it with some legal CBD oil to take the edge of. Then I could focus on my life again instead of my basic human right to appropriate medicine. I'd rather have a few dab pens of of legal oils from different strains for different situations but if I could get THC and CBD legally in bottles from the pharmacy I could at least make it work.

**re different strains for different purposes article posted on mcua group page:**

**Jenny Watson** I have never really thought about this before! Like how different cannabis strains are more helpful to me with my mental illnesses. I do use cannabis recreationally and am not at all trying to claim medical use just to get stoned here. It's just recreational use is how I found out cannabis eases my anxieties, quiets things inside my head and so on. I benefit from all types of cannabis, I realised after reading this that I have always noticed when using cannabis that different types of buds had different amounts of benefit to my mental health but because as it stands now I don't have much of a clue what strains of cannabis I'm even using, because it's illegal there is zero regulation and so it's hard to know just what strain you get sold. If cannabis was legal there would obviously be regulations and labelling, possibly even price may depend on the strain. What I'm excited about and what I love is the knowledge that I one day will be able to work out the best strain of cannabis for my mental health/medical use as well as another different strain based on my recreational needs. Just a little thing like what I read in this post has given me a "lightbulb moment" and I just had to share because figuring that out is a groovy way to start my day. Thanks for the handy hint!!

and this

**Sue Harrold** I would have said that I was a "recreational user" also, BUT, now that I understand how cannabinoids work, I can see that I was drawn to cannabis because it made me feel "better". I also suffer depression. All use is medicinal

**David Dowker** I don't believe any politician they don't understand self efficiency or going forwards with everybody's best interest in mind. I don't believe in false advertising either. I've tried All their shit and it's side effects, effect me in not so nice ways. I refuse to use their crap and have the been told that I'm breaking the law, however the law is fully aware that it works for me and advises me to use it when I have to front court. I just don't have a couple of bonges before court and Just Go off my head being in the pain that my cannabis intake takes the edge off my Anger. I am generally a nice person. I was a Taxi driver once. My record Criminally is 26 times my excuse for the 26 convictions has been the same as I started with. It relieves my chronic hip and knee pains I suffer from a Car accident whilst at work. Funny I never got any flash workers compensation even through I was driving the public around for over 100 hrs per week.

**Vyrus Vallentine** I take cannaoil for my terminal brain cancer, fuck the gov regarding cannabis laws, do what you have to do

**Rob Anderson** I regularly have Cannabis for Medicinal Purposes with no side affects at all except HAPPY! as of a result of injuries and ailments as follows lower back discs and back disintegration , sacral hip joint (SCJ), ADHD, traumatic brain injury (TBI), and asthma. I have followed doctors using modern medicine as a result as well but usually with major side affects but the Opioids I have to use at the moment daily with minimal to moderate relief!. My Quality of life when I have no Cannabis is very painful and uncomfortable and would like to express to the Queensland and Federal Governments with an open mind to invest in this God Given and extremely versatile plant the time it deserves. Without it my children's and my family's future looks bleak to say the least I encourage every single person to look very hard at this medicine as it works for me and everyone I know and could be a very lucrative investment for all Australians and the World as you would know!

**Justin Sinclair-** but the reality is is that for quality assurance and quality control, the government will need to see standards in place and that is where analytical phytochemistry is needed and GMP standards. This is not something just employed by big pharma, but is a TGA requirement of all herbal medicine supplements in Australia. Herbal medicines are tested just as strictly as pharmaceutical medications in Australia, so it stands to reason that this will continue for cannabis...particularly when it comes to reproducibility of results for patients who need it. Furthermore, we must test for purity by assessing solvent residues, heavy metals, aflatoxins, microbial or fungal contamination, pesticide residues etc. We simply must have consistency and safety. **Justin Sinclair M.HerbMed (USyd) BHSc (Nat)(UNE) ND DBM DRM Dip Nutrition**

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