



**mcua**

**Medical Cannabis Users Association of Australia**

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The father of a dying Brisbane child who wanted special permission from the Queensland Government to use cannabis oil in hospital, has again been denied access, even though a medicinal cannabis trial is proceeding as planned for eligible children with severe drug-resistant epilepsy.

Suli's father Steve Peek said doctors had tried every legal medication on his eight-year-old daughter who suffers from chronic seizures caused by a regressive neurological disorder. Nothing has worked so he resorted to illicit cannabis oil 16 months ago and said it had helped control her seizures.

Suli's condition has now deteriorated to the point where she is in need of palliative care and hospitalisation. Her parents want her to remain on cannabis oil as it is relieving her suffering.

But the Qld govt is standing firm on its decision not to allow her access in a public hospital.

Queensland's chief health officer Jeannette Young said in a recent news report that "the Government did not support an amnesty for anyone using illicit drugs."

Patient advocacy group, the Medical Cannabis Users Association of Australia (MCUA) have been asking for patient amnesty for current users and recently gave evidence to this affect at the parliamentary inquiry into the Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2016 which has just ended

"Illicit cannabis comes from the same plant as the legal cannabis being used on the trial which is made by an international pharmaceutical company. This child has been on her own "trial" now for over a year and it has done her NO harm. To deny them access to care is not only cruel but a denial of her human rights. This will increase the suffering of the whole family." said Deb Lynch, MCUA National Secretary and self confessed medical cannabis user for her auto immune disease.

Qld health officer, Dr Young said in a recent interview about this case ""We have made a legitimate pathway for Queensland patients of any age and with a range of conditions to access legal cannabis products,"

"All very well and good", said Mrs Lynch. "Problem is with this, the process is protracted by red tape and hoops via 2 levels of government and a series of approvals. Suli does not have the time to wait for approvals, nor do they have the thousands of dollars needed to import a product that she is using now with good results."

Suli's hospital doctor has told her father she cannot have her oil in hospital, despite his wanting to allow the child to have the oil as a palliative measure. The doctor claims he would "never be allowed to practice again in QLD" if he permitted it.

Who is best qualified to make this decision - the doctors, the bureaucrats or the politicians?

“It seems to us that the doctors and patients in Qld are being held to ransom by someone with vested interests,” said Ms Lynch. “The AMA -who declared inaccurately in a ABC news report, that cannabis oil kills kids - but freely prescribe adult doses of mind altering substances that are not working? Or is it the Health minister- a barrister more concerned more with the punishment for using an “illicit” drug than the well-being of a child who is facing death?”

What happened to the Hippocratic oath? This oil in doing NO harm in fact it is giving her relief from suffering.

Who and what imposes these repercussions on a family with a dying child?

“The MCUA will continue to oppose this kind of prehistoric thinking and members will continue to defy these unjust laws until some sanity is regained by the lawmakers of this state.”

A petition has been started and we ask the Queensland public to support it. You can find the petition here - <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/petitions/e-petition?PetNum=2645>