



mcua

MEDICAL CANNABIS USERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## Press Release

Members of the Medical Cannabis Users Association of Aust Inc. - Qld branch, are up in arms at the announcement on the weekend, by the Attorney General Yvette D'Ath about the proposed re-scheduling of Cannabis to "simplify" proceedings and increase penalties related to Cannabis offences.

Michael Byrne QC had argued in his report to the Inquiry into Organised Crime, that there was a misconception that drugs such as Cannabis were harmless compared to other illegal drugs, maintaining that this is not the case and the use of the drug places social and economic (particularly health care sector) burdens on the state.

"This goes to show just how out of touch Mr Byrne is with reality," said Deb Lynch the Association's secretary. "The proposal to increase penalties and classify cannabis as a "DANGEROUS DRUG" is ludicrous by any stretch of the imagination, when all the eastern states are looking at trials with cannabis products to help sufferers reduce and relieve symptoms of illness. This could, in the long run, reduce the State's Health burden, if home growing were to be permitted."

Ms Lynch uses cannabis for a host of untreatable ailments, both physical and psychological including Auto-immune disease and PTSD, that conventional medicine has been unable to treat. She has done this by using home grown full plant extracts and the Gold Coast University Hospital is aware of her success and are monitoring her progress.

"A success rate that is mirrored over and over again by our members with all manner of chronic and acute illness ranging from children with epilepsy and ADD / ADHD to chronic pain and PTSD sufferers and our Seniors who are using for things like Glaucoma and Arthritis - all with miraculous results."

MCUA members, numbering well over 10,000 current users say this is an absurdity and the Labor govt is contradicting itself by suggesting such action. Our members will continue to lobby for home growing rights as cannabis is a herb and its preventative and curative properties are well documented in science based evidence.

Our members have already been failed by pharmaceutical medications and have no will to place their Healthcare into the hands of those who have already let them down over and over again.

"MCUA of Aust Inc. want to take this opportunity to reaffirm our position, that we want access to 'real cannabis'. Not only are these laws going to make criminals of every single member of the MCUA, but will increase the burden on the state not only in Health; but in the Judicial and Policing sectors for victimless crimes."

As tax payers, we are infuriated at this flagrant waste of valuable dollars, that could be better directed, to protecting our Nurses and Ambulance Officers, from real chemical drug fuelled violence.

In response to the announcement the MCUA is organising a protest action in King George Square on 7th may between 2 & 5 pm to bring attention to this issue.