

From: June Garfit [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 8 February 2015 7:55 PM
To: Committees
Subject: Submission on medical use of marijuana
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Dear Committee Secretary of the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services - Inquiry into the Exposure Draft of the Drugs of Dependence (Cannabis Use for Medical Purposes) Amendment Bill 2014 and related discussion paper).

Author's name is June Garfit

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My submission; I am June Garfit and I am a qualified orthoptist trained in London, United Kingdom at the Moorfields group of Ophthalmic Hospitals (High Holborn branch) in 1952. I worked in Canberra in private practice with Dr. John Lodge, Dr. Douglas Coop and Dr. Margaret Rudd (all ophthalmologists) for many years, using my married name of June Garfit-Mottram or June Mottram.

Glaucoma, a condition of the eyes of rising intra-ocular pressure, is a condition that if left untreated, leads to blindness. One of the recognised treatments internationally, is a small daily dose of cannabis (marijuana) perhaps in a cookie to be eaten. This is a non-invasive and painless way of maintaining correct pressure within the eyes for the life of the patient, and preventing retinal damage and loss of sight.

Secondly, in patients undergoing cancer treatment they find it can cause loss of appetite and subsequent malnourishment. Again a daily dose (or as needed) treatment with a small amount of cannabis restores the “munchies” and helps the success of the cancer treatment and immeasurably the morale of the patient.

Both these uses have had extensive trials conducted on them in other countries which can be reviewed in the appropriate medical journals and I do not think Australia needs to waste more time in running further trials . I do hope my submission will be noted. Signed June Garfit