

3 February 2015

Shane Reattenbury MP
ACT Legislative Assembly

Dear Sir

Re Inquiry into Legislation for Medical Cannabis


I was given the opportunity last year to comment on the proposed legislation being considered for enacting in the ACT Parliament.

I believe it is timely to enact legislation of this kind, as has occurred now in 23 of the US States, in Canada, Holland, Belgium, the Czech Republic, in Israel and is under consideration in a number of other countries. Cannabis offers relief from pain and distress for any suffering severe pain. It can also assist in coping with distressing nausea in the course of chemotherapy for cancer, offers relief from symptoms in what are now mercifully a much decreased number of AIDS sufferers, and in painful muscle spasm with multiple sclerosis. There is now mounting evidence that a version of cannabis rich in the agent CBD offers real relief in young children with a rare form of very epilepsy most commonly termed Dravet Syndrome, which fails to respond to normal anticonvulsant therapy. Other conditions have been suggested as benefiting and these can be explored if appropriate forms of cannabis are available and their use is sensibly regulated.

I attach a copy of an article published in the Medical Journal of Australia on Monday 2 February which touches on many of these issues.

I would be happy to attend a meeting of your Committee should it see this to be of value.

Yours sincerely,

David Penington
Emeritus Professor
The University of Melbourne


Emeritus Professor David Penington AC



Attachments:

Medical Journal of Australia, 2 February 2015, *Medical cannabis: time for clear thinking*

Web link:

https://mja.com.au/system/files/issues/202_02/pen01573.pdf