

Sent: Wednesday, 11 February 2015 5:49 PM
To: Committees
Cc: RATTENBURY
Subject: RE: Submission on Medical Marijuana

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Categories: HACSS

Dear Committee Secretary of the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services-Inquiry into the Exposure Draft on Drugs of Dependence (Cannabis Use for Medical Purposes)- Amendment Bill 2014 and related discussion papers.

I was involved with the student movement from 1970 to 1982.

This is when I first came in contact with Marijuana then being a symbol of a counter culture that was developing in the Western World that was anti-war, anti-establishment. The Marijuana Party and Union of Students then were concerned about the quality being controlled by big business after names were patented for the production then by big tobacco etc.

My next experiences are when I got testicular cancer in the early 1980's after a vestomy. I had an operation to remove the cancer then had to have 40 radiation treatments in Macquarie St. Sydney at that time. By the third treatment the nausea was so bad I could not hold down food so started using marijuana then to help with nausea and vomiting so that I could function. I had to keep working with a young family two children and worked for the former Social Security at that time. The drug Stemitol that was prescribed made my jaws lock up and had an adverse allergy drug reaction to Stemitol.

Much later Hydroponic Marijuana became available and to this day feel it is deadly. As it triggers psychosis there is NO cure and depression. I found when I first used Hydroponic Marijuana it made me feel hung over and depressed the next day, there is sycizophrenia on my mothers side of the family and I experienced some slight hullucinations and after doing a training course in Mental Illness Education and that was descibed so understood what was happening. Everyone who has been honest with me since about Hydro has stated it is too strong. As I said Hydro is highly addictive and should be banned or outlawed, 20 years imprisonment for growing it commercially as it is dangerous and the destinction between it and organic marijuana needs to be made in legislation.

On the other hand medicinal organic marijuana that originally comes from between Russia and China (See History of Marijuana-Utube) has been used by Chinese Herbalists to help with Opiod Dependence, gluecomia, many other uses including hashish another product given to pregnant women giving birth to relax them in India for centuries. This is due to different cannibol structures in it that are useful for medical uses.

To provide it in Australia unlike the US Business Model I and others in the D&A sector would like to see a special NGO that provides the marijuana with any taxes or income going into Community Education in Drug & Alcohol harm minimization. This creates a win/win situation for all those in need of it, the community benefiting by it and that should keep the legislature and public and Churches happy as well about its introduction.

Sincerely

February 2015