

Online submission to the Victorian Law Reform Commission

MEDICINAL CANNABIS REFERENCE

Number	10
Name	Heather Marie Gladman
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Question 1	Which of the following considerations should determine whether there are exceptional circumstances for medicinal cannabis to be made available to a patient: (a) the circumstances of the patient (b) the state of clinical knowledge about the efficacy or potential efficacy of using cannabis in treating the patient's condition (c) both of the above?
Response	(a) It should be available to everyone who needs it. Terminal illness, chronic illness, pain, arthritis, Crohn's disease, stress, anxiety, PTSD and many other conditions. All cannabis use is medical.
Question 2	For what conditions is there sufficient knowledge of the therapeutic benefits, dangers, risks and side effects of cannabis to justify allowing sufferers to use it lawfully in Victoria?
Response	Cancer, epilepsy and all of the above
Question 3	What special considerations, if any, justify access to medicinal cannabis for: (a) patients who are under 18 years of age (b) patients who lack capacity by reason of age or another disability (other than youth) to consent to using medicinal cannabis?
Response	(b) doctor's consent or family consent
Question 4	On which of the following should the law creating a medicinal cannabis scheme base a person's eligibility to use medicinal cannabis: (a) a list of medical conditions (b) a list of symptoms (c) a list of symptoms arising from certain medical conditions (d) evidence that all reasonable conventional treatments have been tried and failed?
Response	All of the above, and being a member of the human race. Nearly all medical conditions benefit from cannabis use. It should be freely available to everyone.
Question 5	Should there be a way to allow for special cases where a person who is otherwise ineligible may use medicinal cannabis? If so, what should that be?
Response	Nearly all medical conditions benefit from cannabis use. It should be freely available to everyone.

Question 6	If Victoria acted through a state agency, in what circumstances would it be legally entitled to establish a medicinal cannabis scheme which manufactured cannabis products without breaching the terms of the <i>Therapeutic Drugs Act 1989 (Cth)</i> or the <i>Narcotic Drugs Act 1967 (Cth)</i> ?
Response	All it would take would be a stroke of a pen from someone in the TGA, thereby removing Cannabis from the poisons list, and rescheduling it from category 9
Question 7	Are the regulatory objectives identified by the Commission appropriate? What changes, if any, would you make to them?
Response	Regulation of this magnitude is totally unnecessary. Australians have a right to decide what medicine they wish to use to heal themselves. It's over-regulation and overkill.
Question 8	Would the creation of a defence to prosecution for authorised patients and carers in possession of small amounts of dried cannabis or cannabis products be an adequate way of providing for people to be treated with medicinal cannabis in exceptional circumstances?
Response	No. It's way too complicated, this is not needed. Common sense is needed. We as Australians are sick of being protected from ourselves, we are not all mentally deficient or in need of governmental nannies.
Question 9	What mechanism should Victoria use to regulate the cultivation of medicinal cannabis?
Response	People can grow, people can make medicine, people can do whatever they like with their own cannabis, but the minute they sell the cannabis or cannabis products, then they register a business and pay tax like everyone else.
Question 10	What approach, or approaches, should Victoria take to regulating how medicinal cannabis is processed and distributed?
Response	see above
Question 11	How should the Victorian medicinal cannabis scheme interact with the national arrangements for the control of therapeutic products under therapeutic goods legislation and narcotic drugs legislation?
Response	see above
Question 12	What responsibilities should be given to health practitioners in authorising a patient's use of medicinal cannabis?
Response	The ability to sign a form saying this person can use medicinal cannabis. That's it.
Question 13	Who should have the authority to assess whether a patient is an appropriate candidate to be treated with medicinal cannabis: (a) all registered medical practitioners (b) certain designated specialist medical practitioners (c) registered health practitioners who have prescribing entitlements (d) a subset of these?
Response	Any Australian. The person themselves, and (a)

Question 14	What requirements, restrictions, guidance or other assistance should health practitioners be given in monitoring a patient's use of medicinal cannabis?
Response	Courses made available for all GP's and nurses to understand medical cannabis and learn how to treat with it.
Question 15	What additional restrictions or requirements, if any, should apply to patients who are vulnerable by reason of age or lack of capacity, so as to provide adequate protection for their welfare?
Response	None. It is not physically possible to overdose on cannabis.
Question 16	In what form(s) should medicinal cannabis be permitted to be supplied and used?
Response	Natural form. Whole plant therapy.
Question 17	In what ways could Victoria's medicinal cannabis scheme keep pace with, and contribute to, clinical research into the therapeutic uses of cannabis and other changes in scientific knowledge, medical practices and technology?
Response	Learn from Israel.