

Online submission to the Victorian Law Reform Commission

MEDICINAL CANNABIS REFERENCE

Number	16
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Question 1	<p>Which of the following considerations should determine whether there are exceptional circumstances for medicinal cannabis to be made available to a patient:</p> <p>(a) the circumstances of the patient</p> <p>(b) the state of clinical knowledge about the efficacy or potential efficacy of using cannabis in treating the patient's condition</p> <p>(c) both of the above?</p>
Response	A - If someone finds relief in any sense they should be able to use it.
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	This is irrelevant, if someone finds relief they should be able to use it. There is not enough evidence to support that it will harm them further (or harm anyone else for that matter) and therefore, it should be up to the individual if they choose to use Cannabis as a medicine.
Question 3	<p>What special considerations, if any, justify access to medicinal cannabis for:</p> <p>(a) patients who are under 18 years of age</p> <p>(b) patients who lack capacity by reason of age or another disability (other than youth) to consent to using medicinal cannabis?</p>
Response	<p>If there is signs of a dysfunctional Endo-Cannabinoid system, for example a child with disorders such as Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Autism, Developmental Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or Epilepsy, then this should be enough to warrant using Cannabis as a medicine.</p> <p>If a child (or adult) of any age tries it for their ailment and finds benefit then they should be allowed to use it.</p>
Question 4	<p>On which of the following should the law creating a medicinal cannabis scheme base a person's eligibility to use medicinal cannabis:</p> <p>(a) a list of medical conditions</p> <p>(b) a list of symptoms</p> <p>(c) a list of symptoms arising from certain medical conditions</p> <p>(d) evidence that all reasonable conventional treatments have been tried and failed?</p>
Response	<p>Using a plant as a medicine is as conventional as eating a plant.</p> <p>The less conventional way as far as humans entire history is forcing humans to use medicine that have been made by man.</p> <p>The law should be this: If a child (or adult) of any age trials it for their ailment and finds benefit then they should be allowed to use it.</p>

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	There should be no one ineligible in regards to using this medicine. If someone wishes to try it for their ailment they should be allowed. Unless you can provide substantial and definitive evidence that it will cause them further harm than the prescription medications currently on offer in Australia, of course.
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	The lives and health of the general public should NOT EVER be dependent on terms not being breached. If it might help them, give it to them, unless you can provide definitive evidence that it will cause them further harm.
Question 7	Are the regulatory objectives identified by the Commission appropriate? What changes, if any, would you make to them?
Response	Full and regulated legalisation, except for minors, unless they provide a medical cannabis license, of course. If other drugs are acceptable, such as alcohol, nicotine and even sugar then the same should be done for Cannabis.
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	Short answer - No. The Australian Government, should stop incarcerating people for drug offences altogether, unless another individual or party has been harmed. These people that are drug addicts are all hurting inside or have disorders and should not be treated as scum, but should be embraced in the community as a fact of life and given the ACTUAL support and caring that they need. You should not not condemn them further.
Question 9	What mechanism should Victoria use to regulate the cultivation of medicinal cannabis?
Response	No chemicals. 100% organic, if you research as I have, there is plenty to suggest that they do not need chemicals to grow successfully. So don't use chemicals, they are a safety hazard for everyone.
Question 10	What approach, or approaches, should Victoria take to regulating how medicinal cannabis is processed and distributed?
Response	No chemicals, 100% organic.
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	Convince all other states and agencies that this is the best way to do things, while making a lot of money too.

Question 12	What responsibilities should be given to health practitioners in authorising a patient's use of medicinal cannabis?
Response	I personally don't feel a GP is necessary. Colorado have a good thing going, Australia should take some advice from them. Otherwise, sell it over the counter at the chemist, similar to Codeine (that's a far more dangerous and addictive drug than Cannabis though).
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	People who know a lot about a variety of Cannabis strains should be allowed to sell it and advise customers on differing effects they may obtain. Otherwise, chemists. Medical Practitioners should also be aware of various strains and direct cautious individuals or patients with extreme health conditions towards the correct ones that will benefit them.
Question 14	What requirements, restrictions, guidance or other assistance should health practitioners be given in monitoring a patient's use of medicinal cannabis?
Response	Just general health check ups, as usual.
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	As the health risks are few, only supervision by a parent/carer/guardian/responsible adult is necessary to ensure safety of vulnerable individuals.
Question 16	In what form(s) should medicinal cannabis be permitted to be supplied and used?
Response	Edibles, Vapourised, Smoked, Oil All non chemical and organic forms.
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	Do more research into how these drugs are helping them. Find out what they gain from it. Research more on ADD/ADHD and Developmental/ non developmental Post traumatic Stress Disorder. It is desperately needed. Some other natural drugs or remedies MAY have some substance to them after all, just as Cannabis does. These people that are 'drug addicts' are all hurting or have disorders and should not be treated as outcasts or criminals, but should be embraced in the community as a fact of life and given the ACTUAL support and caring that they need.