

## Submission to the Victorian Law Reform Commission

### MEDICINAL CANNABIS REFERENCE

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#### NON-CONFIDENTIAL SECTION

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Cannabis is the only substance I have ever found to give relief from debilitating, neuropathic pain caused by spinal injury that occurred at 12 years of age. Cannabis also helps to modulate the 'intensity' associated with my particular variant of Aspergers Syndrome. I am a high functioning autistic with a 130+ IQ. Cannabis is one of my 'pet' subjects.

I have used raw plant materials for over 37 years and made cannabis extracts for over 20 years. For the last 5 years I have run a compassion club for people who have not found relief with the drugs the medical profession has to offer. Some of the results that have been achieved in this group, especially with sufferers of Fibromyalgia, MS and cancer have been astounding and much documented by their own doctors in what amounts to a blind trial, as those doing the testing are unaware of what is occurring and are therefore impartial.

I have during that time, extensively studied the published science from around the world on cannabis and each of it's constituent cannabinoids. I have read over 11,000 peer reviewed studies and many of the peer reviews. I have also studied all that is currently known about the EndoCannabinoid System (ECS) and the roll it plays in achieving homeostasis or good health, both mental and physical.

My first concern with this current review is that no experienced user representative has been appointed to the "Expert Panel" This excludes the views of the major public interest group to these proceedings from a say in the final report to the Victorian Parliament. I am a member of the 1500 strong, Medical Cannabis Uses Association of Victoria (Unincorporated). There was no public request for nominations to the panel. Why Not?

Any review of the Drug Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981, for ways to regulate the use of cannabis for medicinal use must start with an examination of the act and a comparison must be made to the actual science base that has been discovered about cannabis since the act was first made in 1981.

To do less would be wilful ignorance and intellectual dishonesty, hardly the basis for a Law Reform Commission review.

The current literature base available in the recognised medical libraries and medical journals of the world amounts to over 30,000 peer reviewed studies and journal articles on Cannabis, The endo cannabinoid system, and the molecular biology of how cannabis interacts with the human body. The calls of the AMA and politicians that we need more studies to see if it is safe now begs the question. What is their problem, literacy or comprehension? Wilful ignorance is not plausible deny ability. When practiced by those in power it is criminal disregard.

In this submission, due to time constraints, I will not provide footnotes for each statement I make into the properties of cannabis. I will however provide at the end a number of links to the source materials that back every single statement I will make.

In all the literature, Cannabis has never been shown in any study to damage any 'normal' cell in the human body. It has been shown to be neuroprotective, antioxidant, anti-tumoral anti-inflammatory and many other positive medical effects. It also triggers neurogenesis, the creation of brain cells. It does not cause damage to the body and the body does not expel cannabinoids as it does toxins. Rather it stores them in fatty tissue for later use which is why positive 'drug' tests can occur months after the actual use.

While there have been only a few "recognised human trials" due only to the legal restrictions placed on doing research, a large group of recently published studies in California trialling the safety and efficacy of cannabis in treating numerous indications over a 12 year period and with over 1000 participants, in placebo controlled double blind trials, has clearly shown the accusation, put by it's listing in schedule 9, that Cannabis has no known medical use to be absolutely wrong. In fact it is so wrong as to be a blatant lie!

Why is an Australian trial needed? Numerous trials have been done elsewhere in the world to prove it's efficacy in treating many illnesses, so don't we recognise their expertise?

Cannabis is an herbaceous plant.

It lists in the botanical guides in the same family as Hops, Cannabaceae. Cannabis has had a known medicinal use for nearly 5000 years having been listed in early Chinese writings as one of the major medicinal herbs. In all that time there is not a single recorded incident of fatal cannabis poisoning occurring. The W.H.O. has stated that it is impossible to fatally overdose on Cannabis. This is due to the LD50 (the ratio between a medicinally effective dose and the dose that would kill 50% of the population) of cannabis being greater than 1:20000 which is actually a higher LD50 than that of potable water! For reference the LD50 of Paracetamol is 1:15 and it is available at the supermarket without medical supervision!

W.H.O. figures for 2011 indicated 160 million people world wide, mostly without medical supervision, consumed cannabis without a single fatal outcome. It's safety for human consumption is on par with lettuce! So we must assume that the use of cannabis, under medical supervision, will be no worse for outcomes. If cannabinoids are dangerous why are they found naturally in breast milk?

The "principle of legality" dictates that in order for a law to be valid it must not be based on a lie. The parliament is not free to pass a law that says black is white! Yet with the current cannabis laws that is what we have in place.

The police commit perjury and make false accusations every time they charge some one with "Cultivate narcotic plant" or "possess or use a drug of dependence, namely cannabis"

**Cannabis is not a poison, so it should not list as a poison.**

There is no known dose of cannabis that can cause a fatal toxic reaction. The LD50 of cannabis has been estimated at 1:20,000 by those who have studied the toxicology.

**Cannabis is not a narcotic, so it should not list as a narcotic.**

Cannabis does not operate on the central nervous system and does therefore not suppress the central nervous system and is therefore by scientific definition not a narcotic.

**Cannabis is not a drug of dependence, so it should not list as a drug of dependence.** There has never been a physical withdrawal profile shown for

organically grown cannabis. However many people when using cannabis 'recreationally' mix it with tobacco which does carry a withdrawal profile. Many inexperienced users are unaware of this situation and blame the cannabis not the tobacco. There also appears to be some withdrawal profile accompanying some of the petrol-chemical based fertilisers used by unscrupulous growers and dealers in the current 'black market' which taint the plant matter have caused a number of health issues that have been blamed

on cannabis. That is the natural outcome of 'enabling' criminals to control manufacture and distribution of a substance which has a clear public market regardless of the laws imposed upon its use. It is not the fault of the substance that it has been tainted. Cannabis has however been shown in a double blind placebo controlled study to be very effective at assisting addicts of numerous narcotic drugs, both licit and illicit, to break their habits. The ability of cannabis to mitigate the withdrawal symptoms of many narcotics is widely known throughout the "drug underculture" even if it is not by the AMA. Many recreational drug users use cannabis to "come down" after a binge on their Narcotic of choice. It has been known in the live music industry for over 35 years (that I am personally aware) that the only 'safe' way to come down off an amphetamine binge is to use Cannabis to bring about a "smooth landing" rather than a "crash and burn" as we are seeing in the hospitals at the moment.

As Cannabis is non-toxic to the human body its inclusion under the poisons schedule is arbitrary and perverse. Cannabis MUST be de-scheduled immediately. The reasons for this are simple.

Cannabis is not a poison, so it should be included in the poisons list as a poison. Cannabis is not a narcotic, so it should not list as a narcotic.

Cannabis is not a drug of dependence, so it should not list as a drug of dependence.

While the politicians may consider themselves 'free' to play around with the truth and the meaning of words the courts are not so 'unrestrained'. The courts are compelled to deal with the facts or the entire system of 'Rule of law' comes into disrepute. This is the current situation in Victoria where a large percentage of the public hold the entire legal system in disregard.

Courts must deal with facts and the fact is cannabis is not a poison, it is not a narcotic, nor a drug of dependence and therefore any accusations against a person in that regard are blatantly false. The science refutes the accusation, the prosecutor cannot prove their case and brings false charges

before a court every time they indulge the politicians in this scam.

The current sections of the DPCS Act 1981 and the TGA act that make these false accusations must be repealed immediately.

The major obstacle to the removal of cannabis from the DPCS act and its de-scheduling from the poisons list are found in the Narcotic Drugs Act 1961 (Cth) and the Australian Criminal Code (Cth) The federal act, as it stands however, actually represents a major impost into states rights as stated in S113 of the Australian Constitution.

There can be little argument that the vast majority of medicines, when administered, take the form of liquids and many medications carry an intoxicant effect to the user. They are therefore "Intoxicating Liquids" by definition and clearly the purview of the states not the Commonwealth. Eg Morphine and heroin, one licit, one illicit, both are administered as liquids, both are heavy intoxicants. The Narcotic drugs act 1961 is therefore invalid and must be repealed by the Federal Parliament or struck off by the High Court as unconstitutional. The 'External affairs' powers cannot over rule the clear statements of the constitution. The status quo is not justice or law, it is straight up fraud. This situation can not be allowed to continue.

Once the federal 'hurdle' is gone Victoria will be free to base its laws on the known science instead of the myths and lies that are currently enshrined in statute. Surely the

sign of a state run under the rule of law.

Cannabis should fall under the Agriculture Department for Commercial Supply of it's fibre and seed and raw ingredients for medical use to suitably equipped industrial facilities. Food safety standards should be imposed through out the processing of all cannabis in order to prevent contamination of the medical and food parts of the plant. All commercial cannabis products should carry labelling stating percentage of active constituents so consumers can make an informed decision about the type of cannabis the wish to consume.

Same rules as grapes. Simple.

You can grow as many grapes as you want, no licence;

You can make as many of those grapes into wine as you want, no licence;

You can consume that wine and share it with your

friends, no licence;

But the moment you wish to sell that wine for public consumption you must get a licence and prove it meets food safety standards.

Same rules should apply to Cannabis. A simple model that works well and with which the community is highly familiar.

Commercial distribution would occur from licensed premises (which would NOT be allowed to distribute alcohol).

Any law based on lies is an abomination and any judge/magistrate that upholds the dictates of the parliament above the human rights of the individual and enforces a law based on lies is a despot. The Nuremberg defence has never been valid. Wilful ignorance is NOT plausible deny ability, it is "Criminal disregard" when practiced by a medical professional or bureaucrats exercising power!

These laws have ALWAYS been based on lies and those lies have now all been exposed by the science that has been done around the world. Not one thing that has been claimed about the "dangers" of cannabis has been shown to be true.

Cannabis does not cause cancer, it CURES it.

Cancers have been shown to be due to damage to Cannabinoid receptors in the body caused by either an acidic diet, radiation, toxin or virus attack. The cannabinoid receptors constitute amongst other functions a communication channel between the body and an individual cell that controls the division, growth and death of the cell.

When that communication channel is broken the body cannot tell a damaged cell to die and it keeps growing, I.e. cancer. Cannabis repairs the receptors restoring the communications channel so the body can tell the damaged cell to die ie kill the cancer.

Cannabis does not cause mental illness, it TREATS it.

Recent studies by Harvard University have shown clearly that all mental illness is caused by CB1 receptor deficiency. The type of deficiency controls which variant of cannabis is required to address the deficiency.

Many claims have been made regarding THC "causing" mental illness, especially schizophrenia. THC is a neuroprotectant and antioxidant, it can cause no harm to the human body. What THC can do is expose an already existing endocannabinoid deficiency in the CB1 receptors in the brain. Even without using Cannabis a person with this deficiency will develop one of a number of forms of mental illness due to not being able to naturally down regulate the action of the body's own version of THC, Anandamide, (The name is taken from the Sanskrit word *ananda*, which means "joy, bliss, delight", and amide.) as someone without the deficiency does. Normally the receptors when acted upon by an agonist release the body's equivalent of CBD called 2AG. This deficiency leads to an over abundance of neurotransmitters throughout the brain which triggers random neurons to fire, giving the impression of "voices" to the sufferer. CBD down modulates the action of the agonist (THC or Anandamide) thereby down regulating the release of neurotransmitters. CBD has been shown to therefore be a treatment for the deficiency to relieve the symptoms but not something to fix the underlying cause (which is usually diet coupled with DNA). Whole plant cannabis extract from fertilised female Cannabis (Indica) plants containing both THC and CBD (Dominant) can rebuild the receptors and repair the DNA issues that

cause the deficiency in the first place. Conversely depression is due to an Anandamide deficiency which is why THC addresses the symptoms of depression very easily and quickly. However ongoing administration is required to deal with the underlying cause of the deficiency and 'cure' the ailment. For this reason a Sativa dominant strain is best for depression.

The accusation has been often made that cannabis can cause paranoia and I have been in the past concerned that maybe I was becoming paranoid. Then one Monday morning they came through my front door carrying guns. They stole my food, medicine and religious sacraments and then put in writing that they were out to get me. It was of considerable relief to know that I was not paranoid.

As there are no registered medical professionals within Australia with training in the application of cannabinoid medicines or the function of the endocannabinoid system no meaningful "medical oversight" is possible in Australia at present. Therefore the listing of any cannabinoid for use under Schedule 4 is farcical and really just an exercise in the blind leading the blind! CBD without THC is as prone to causing an imbalance in the body as is THC without CBD. The entourage effect that has been shown to occur with balanced multi cannabinoid extracts outstrips the results from individual alkaloids. All the phytocannabinoids found in the cannabis plant have now been shown to have analogues in the endocannabinoid system that the healthy body produces on demand. The unhealthy body does not produce enough endocannabinoids to achieve homeostasis and requires the adjunct of phytocannabinoids in order to achieve it. Cannabis is a source of essential nutrients and should be made readily available to the public.

Nobody has ever died from using cannabis or whole plant cannabis extracts which have been around for a couple of centuries, even from uncontrolled illicit street supply. This indicates a need for use under medical supervision to be totally unnecessary but guidance for administration for inexperienced users by those experienced in the practices, would make reasonable sense in order to avoid unwanted side effects that can occur with incorrect strain choice.

The intent of the Victorian Government's proposed scheme is to "ensure there is a suitable level of medical oversight over the use of pharmaceutical grade cannabis based products and reduce the regulatory burden associated with its current classification as a prohibited substance (Schedule 9, extract of cannabis)." That statement being taken from the Government's recent submission for the rescheduling of CBD to sch4

This however falls at the first hurdle because the endocannabinoid system is NOT taught in medical or nursing schools in Australia and doctors therefore have little to no knowledge of this system of lipids that control virtually all other systems in the human body. The AMA has declared that the endocannabinoid system is "not important to health" The AMA vocally opposes cannabis based medicines because they do not understand the method of action. The only true experts on cannabis and the endocannabinoid system in this country are, mostly, on a disability pension and have been forced to learn about their medicine because the medical profession has refused to learn about the science that has been done around the world. There are now over 25,000 studies and published articles in PubMed alone on this issue and yet the AMA claims more studies need to be done to prove safety. Can't they read? Most pharmaceuticals undergo only a handful of studies before release, so why the discrimination against this one non-toxic plant? Is it because it actually works to make people healthy?

Cannabis medicines are not as "complex" to understand as many people make them out to be. Start at 3:1 ratio THC:CBD and change the ratio only to prevent unwanted side effects. 1 CBD molecule down regulates up to 3 THC molecules before being spent. Medicinal oils with the broadest spectrum of active cannabinoids are always the

most effective. Only real choice needed is THC or CBD dominant to suit the ailment being treated.

A green plant contains mostly THCA or CBDA or a combination of both, depending on the strain as to the balance. These compounds are in an acid form which cannot cross the blood/brain/barrier BBB. In order to do repairs in the brain and also in most other organs, the acids must be converted to their PH neutral form which is the active cannabinoids. The process of converting the acids to the

PH neutral form is called decarboxylation which in fact is the removal of carbon dioxide and water from the plant. It is also known as "curing" the plant. A process that is used with most herbs with a common chemistry occurring in all herbs. It can be either be done through heating or by natural drying, the result is virtually the same, dry crispy plant matter, the only difference is time required to achieve the final result and the levels of some cannabinoids.

Of the cannabinoids the best known are THC and CBD but along with CBN and the other 85 known cannabinoids form a series of mirror pair agonist/antagonist sets. These compounds are almost identical chemically to the compounds the body makes on demand to modulate virtually all other systems to achieve good health. The broader the range of cannabinoids in the plant matter used to make the medicine the greater the entourage effect due to the fact that so many of the cannabinoids needed by the body for different jobs are readily available. It is like having the right tool for the job when working on a car, yes you may well be able to fix your car with a shifting spanner but a full toolbox of the right sized spanners will make it a quicker and better job. The nature of the curing process means that fast curing can mean lower values of some of the less known cannabinoids and can decrease the entourage effect found in really well cured bud.

There are 3 base types of cannabis and the cross breeding has led to over 3500 known chemotypes. Cannabinoid balance can be achieved by strain selection and after that it is growing method and curing. All can effect the balance and if you know what you are doing you can achieve almost any balance by starting with a good strain. If you remove the males while growing it frustrates the girls and they put on more THC at the expense of the CBD which is what most commercial growers do. Most med growers allow the girls to be fertilised and produce seed. This gives the best balance to any strain.

Not exactly rocket science but with politicians and doctors involved it may as well be! How would the government propose to put the genie back in the bottle? The truth is out and more people learn about it each day.

Cannabis is a food that provides nutrients that are essential to good health, it is not a drug. It does not require the level of regulation required by a toxic pharmaceutical because it is not such a substance. Cannabis must be descheduled and allowed to be freely used by the general public. All use is medical use regardless of the intent of the user. Anything else is a lie.

There is a moral obligation to ignore a law that is based

on a lie. Source information links

<http://youtu.be/sYA9EpVB2qo>

[http://www.bbm1.ucm.es/cannabis/investigacion2\\_en.htm](http://www.bbm1.ucm.es/cannabis/investigacion2_en.htm)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1miGzTwK28U>

<http://healthland.time.com/2012/05/30/marijuana-compound-treats-schizophrenia-with-few-side-effects-clinical-trial/>

Granny Storm Crow List. The most up to date and thorough list of studies on cannabis on the net. <http://beyondchronic.com/2014/09/get-newest-granny-storm-crow-list-here-july-2014/>

700 MEDICINAL USES OF CANNABIS SORTED BY DISEASE

[http://www.encoded.org/info/700-MEDICINAL-USES-OF-CANNABIS.html?fb\\_ref=Default&fb\\_source=message](http://www.encoded.org/info/700-MEDICINAL-USES-OF-CANNABIS.html?fb_ref=Default&fb_source=message)