

Submission to the Victorian Law Reform Commission

MEDICINAL CANNABIS REFERENCE

Number	67
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Date	28 May 2015

To The Victorian Law Reform Commission

Thank you for your response to our letter to the Victorian Health Minister, regarding medicinal cannabis.

We believe medicinal cannabis should be available to sick people especially people people with pain and difficulties.

Our Grand Daughter Madison has epilepsy. Madison has been on many epilepsy drugs in the past few years, all of which have very nasty side effects, including aggression, pains in her head, psychotic episodes. This is devastating to see, and does not stop the seizures, nothing seems to work. Everything we have researched on medicinal cannabis seems favourable and not destructive like the prescribed medications the neurologist puts our Grand Daughter on. I know they are trying to help, but so far none of the prescription medications have worked.

Madison is the eldest of three children, with two younger brothers aged 6 years and 3 years and along with her parents, they live with seeing their daughter and sister in such distress.

If you walked a day in their shoes of a day with epilepsy, you would realise the pain, and the torture to the family.

We feel the Victorian law reform commission is in a position to assist seriously ill people, particularly children, and appreciate being given the ability to comment on the future framework of this serious matter.

Our Grand Daughter Madison live in Victoria with her loving family and she is currently under the care of a Neurologist, paediatrician and psychiatrist at the Melbourne Children's Hospital. At this stage nothing has helped and the family continue with tests and exploring all options.

We do believe if our Grand Daughter was to either go on a trial or be able to be prescribed medicinal cannabis it may go some way to reducing the seizures she is experiencing without the terrible side effects of current epileptic medicines. The challenge is the cost which is absolutely crippling for the family, which makes us question the fairness and justice of the system.

We have shared our story with you and believe the framework needs to consider the following elements to allow access for the people who need it the most and balance the potential social issues. By having patients still under the care of their specialists and medical professionals, access to either the pharmaceutical produced product, via a prescription, to allow the authorities to measure and manage quantities, or provision of the tincture or medicinal oil by a reputable supplier, which again can be managed and measured. If the oils and tinctures can be safely assessed via the TGA (Therapeutic goods

administration) and then sold by businesses who meet selected criteria and can report back to authorities on quantities dispensed, we believe this framework would meet the needs of those most in need and minimise the potential impacts on the social issues.

As a mother of four grown up healthy, caring and responsible adults, I beg you to please consider legalising medicinal cannabis for sick people like our Granddaughter who we love very much.

Yours sincerely

Diane and Max Lock