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This is my submission for the medicinal cannabis bill 2014

Cannabis has been used as a medical treatment for over 4,000 years; many cultures still use it today. It was only classified as an illicit drug so that large chemical companies could profit; allowing this to happen has put the Australian people at risk. The substitution of natural remedies such as cannabis with the less effective and more damaging pharmaceutical treatments has in fact put Australian's health and safety at risk. There is a 'duty of care' to the people of Australia that has greatly been forgone by the Australian regulators and governing bodies.

We, Australians should have the right to choose the best medical treatment available, we should not have been put at risk; contaminating our bodies or masking our health issues with synthetic medical substitutes. There is no time to waste on cannabis medical trials here in Australia, some people, some children need medical cannabis now to survive, to live. There has been numerous trials in other countries... Australia needs to legalize medical cannabis now.

Please put people before profits, chemical companies like to keep people ill so they can keep making money, they are not interested in cures or effective healing remedies. Medical cannabis has proven to stop seizures without risk of the side effects associated with the pharmaceutical treatments. Also medical cannabis has proven to help and even cure cancer patients, which would be highly unprofitable for radiation and chemo industries but beneficial to the patient.

I lost my dad to cancer, had I known about cannabis as a medical treatment 11 years ago, I would of grown cannabis myself and baked cookies for my dad. He, my dad wasn't offered any treatment at all; he was just given the death sentence. I searched around for treatments for my dad, I went to the health store and purchased anything that might help him; but 4 months later at 59 years of age he was gone. I would not even want to imagine how difficult and heart breaking it is for parents seeing their sick children suffering, deteriorating and even dying... when medical cannabis can ease the suffering, heal and even cure their ailments.....why for heavens sake is it illegal!

Medical cannabis is a great pain relief treatment; it is a medical treatment for many ailments. All Australian's should have the right to be able to choose this herbal treatment (cannabis), without having to obtain it from the black market, or have the fear of criminalisation for growing a cannabis plant in their own backyard for personal use. Cannabis is a herb with healing properties it grew in many backyard gardens before the wrongful labelling of being an 'illicit drug'.

There is a great demand for cannabis to be legalised in Australia; all Australians should have the right to grow one normal sized cannabis plant for personal use. Medical cannabis needs to be manufactured here in Australia; manufactured cannabis needs to be regulated, it needs to be kept as pure and natural as possible to maintain its full medical properties. It needs to be available in a variety of forms and must be affordable to all demographic groups.

Legalising cannabis will save millions of dollars as well as free up scarce resources currently used to find and prosecute cannabis users. It will also put a stop to 70% of the black market trade of illicit drugs, as cannabis would no longer be part of the black market trade. Legalising cannabis would generate another industry creating more employment along with income and taxes from the sales of cannabis products; which should include but is not limited to medical and industrial fibre products.

Most importantly legalising cannabis can enhance and save lives particularly for deteriorating medical conditions such as epilepsy and cancer of which many people including young children are suffering. In Australia, every year 100,000 people are diagnosed with cancer; sadly, three children every week die from cancer. Epilepsy sufferers particularly children have a high risk of irreversible brain damage attributed to the duration of daily multiple seizures; there is also an increased risk of death related to prolonged or ongoing seizures.

My name is Pamela Kniese I am 49 years of age, I am a 5th generation Australian woman. I have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting. I am a mother of three children and I have two grandchildren. Along with my fellow Australians, I demand the right to choose cannabis as a medical treatment.

Sincerely

Pamela Kniese