



**AUSTRALIAN  
PAIN  
MANAGEMENT  
ASSOCIATION**

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Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

5 May 2023

Dear Committee Secretary,

RE: Improving Access to Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2023

The Australian Pain Management Association Ltd (APMA), established in 2009, is a Not-for-Profit health charity, dedicated to providing peer to peer support for people with chronic pain. APMA is Australia's largest lived experience network for chronic pain, and across our network we engage with over 17,000 people. APMA operates Pain Support Groups, provides education and resources, and hosts the National Pain Link Helpline.

Members of the APMA community tell us:

- That affordability and access is an issue for utilising medicinal cannabis as a treatment.
- Further investment in research to support the benefit to chronic pain sufferers is needed.
- As changes occur in research and development of policy, consideration is also needed for policing and driving laws.

APMA is a treatment agnostic organisation. We support the scheduling of medicines that help patients with chronic or persistent pain and meet the safeguards and the regulatory evaluation scheduling process in Australia, without endorsing any particular treatment over another.

APMA are available for further input into the development of any consumer impacting legislation.

Yours faithfully,

Renee Rankin  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Pain Management Association