

Subject: Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014
Date: Monday, 2 March 2015 6:59:40 PM

To the Committee Secretary;

I'm writing to you about the medical cannabis bill. Many years ago, I was diagnosed with chronic pain from my back, and something called Trigeminal Neuralgia, which is the result of a damaged facial nerve - the nerve trunk that controls the left side of my skull, from top to tongue to throat.

I was advised by several doctors to use cannabis as the treatments were either dangerous, addictive or .. unpleasant. The medication for the trig. neur. can only be described as a living death. I was warned before I was given it that it increased the chance of suicide substantially. I could see why. Stopping it suddenly could kill you, so i had to wean down the dosage slowly.

I'm lucky to have survived that.

I have not used cannabis because it is illegal and well beyond my pension in any case. I live in envy of other sufferers in the US who have reported an almost normal life with daily cannabis usage. I do not know if it would work in my case - there are no guarantees - but all the data I can find seems promising.

There was talk of a medical trial here but it fell through, and I would have had difficulty traveling now due to other medical problems that have developed since.

If medical cannabis becomes available, it could potentially restore my quality of living. I might be able to work at least some of the time, whereas currently i live on the edge of homelessness. Currently i endure, but do not enjoy, my existence.

I hope that even if I cannot get into some program, that at least some future sufferers will have an option. My best understanding is that, if vaped or eaten, cannabis is very safe, whereas the prescription medications used as an alternative are toxic to say the least, and I have known a lot of people who have either suffered organ failure or death as a result of them. I see no downside to the use of cannabis for medical purposes.

Thank you for your time.

Brett Caton.