

Please improve the access and affordability of medicinal cannabis urgently. So many endometriosis patients live in excruciating constant pain with acute pain flareups on top of this. We often have few options besides opiates which can cause serious bowel dysfunction and make pain and symptoms worse, plus cause life threatening blockages. Cannabis is a safe and effective pain management tool that few endometriosis patients can access due to it not being on the PBS. We desperately need this to happen so that we can have more quality of life and contribute to Australia's communities and economy, which many of us cannot do without affordable access. Having it on the PBS would mean so many of us can choose to taper off opiates and take a safer medicine that can also address our inflammatory full body disease. Currently only pelvic and some abdominal endometriosis can be treated in this country due to a lack of training, so those of us with endometriosis in our lungs, on our nerves, or elsewhere in the body literally only have the option of pain management in Australia. Having access to cannabis could save our lives as we might be able to work and save money to travel overseas for life-saving surgery with expert surgeons who know how to identify and excise the disease thoroughly outside the pelvis. Too many of us lose our lives due to accidental opioid overdose, suicide due to unmanaged pain, or organ failure or rupture from neglected disease invading our organs. Cannabis is such a critical medical tool in our treatment and for many allows us to eat, work, and have a social life we could not have without it. Please take this seriously and put cannabis on the PBS in 2023.