



Minister for Health and
Minister for Ambulance Services
Member for Woodridge

22 DEC 2015

Mr Neil Laurie
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Queensland Parliamentary Service
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Dear Mr Laurie

Neil,

I write in response to your letters regarding petition numbers 2498-15 and 2519-15, tabled in Parliament on 1 December 2015, in relation to medicinal cannabis. As these petitions are similar in nature, I have taken the liberty of responding to both petitions in this letter. I therefore ask that this response be noted against each petition.

I appreciate there is growing community interest in the therapeutic potential of cannabis-derived compounds for a number of conditions, including neuropathic pain, muscle spasticity associated with multiple sclerosis and cancer-related nausea.

The Premier has previously announced that Queensland will undertake a trial of medicinal cannabis in children with severe, drug-resistant epilepsy. An announcement about the technical details of trials will be made once they have been settled and agreed between all parties.

The Commonwealth Government, through the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) operates the Special Access Scheme. The Special Access Scheme provides an approval process for the import and supply of an unapproved therapeutic good for use by a single patient, on a case by case basis.

In Queensland, the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 makes the production, possession and supply of cannabis an offence where such activities are done 'unlawfully', that is, without authorisation, justification or excuse by law. In light of this, the Palaszczuk Government recently amended the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 to allow the chief executive of Queensland Health to approve a person to administer, dispense, manufacture, obtain, possess, prescribe, supply or use cannabis for or in connection with, an approved clinical trial, or an approval under the Special Access Scheme.

The cultivation, possession and distribution of cannabis or cannabis products remain a crime in Queensland.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

CAMERON DICK MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services