

Medical Cannabis Awareness NZ

Executive Summary

Misuse of Drugs (Medicinal Cannabis) Amendment bill

MCANZ Submission



Medical Cannabis Awareness New Zealand (MCANZ) is the only registered charity with a sole focus on Medical Cannabis. MCANZ has been performing the role of a “Guerilla Medsafe” working constructively within the law as much as possible in its quest to reduce costs.

MCANZ supports the bill, but is disappointed in the drafting process, and recommends upgrades to all aspects of the legislation, as well as addressing things relevant but overlooked in the legislation.

- Recommendation 1. Alter protections from those certified as having “Terminal” to those with “severe or debilitating” conditions.
- Recommendation 2. Alter the protections to include the offences of manufacturing cannabis preparations, and of cultivation, if courts/police are satisfied it is for the sole purpose is for personal medical use.
- Recommendation 3. Extend these defense provisions to caregivers when the police/courts are satisfied that offences are solely for the benefit of a patient with severe or debilitating conditions.
- Recommendation 4. 98% Pure forms of all major non-psychoactive compounds are also descheduled alongside CBD. Specifically, CBC, CBDV, CBG.
- Recommendation 5. Reschedule balanced (2:1 THC:CBD or less) Cannabis preparations as Class C.
- Recommendation 6. Set standards for manufacture are similar to those in use in Canada under the GPP scheme.
- Recommendation 7. Set up a product band system based on cannabinoid ratio and potency for prescribing products.
- Recommendation 8. Immediately amend Schedule 22 of the MODR so that GPs can prescribe cannabis-based preparations freely.
- Recommendation 9. Implement a credentialed process for nurse practitioners to be able to prescribe cannabis-based products in end-of-life care as a minimum.
- Recommendation 10. Make low-dose high-CBD products (with a THC:CBD ratio of 1:20 or higher) available as over-the-counter, pharmacy-only medicines.
- Recommendation 11. Legalise vaporisers by exempting them from the “drug utensils” offences.
- Recommendation 12. MOH to tender for providing medical cannabis training, to jump-start prescriber confidence and competency.
- Recommendation 13. Tax revenues from licensed producers to be set aside for a cannabis-specific funding scheme administered in the spirit of PHARMAC’s NPPA scheme.
- Recommendation 14. Enable the proposed licensing agency to license individual patient cultivation on a restricted, controlled basis.
- Recommendation 15. Enact the preferred policy of MCANZ in its entirety, as laid out in *Medical Cannabis in Aotearoa: A Comprehensive Solution for 2018 and Beyond*.