

Mr Tom Wise
Committee Secretary
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Hobart, Tas < 70000

Att: Mr Tom Wise
Re: Submission for Legalised Medicinal Cannabis

Dear Mr Tom Wise,

My name is Andrew Clifford, I am one of the directors (along with Rodney Fischer), of Green Acres Hydroponics. We have two stores, one at 46 Binalong Rd, Mornington Tas, 7018, (have been operating for 5 ½ years) and one at 13a Beach Rd, Kingston, Tas 7050.

We have been looking into the benefits, and disadvantages of Medicinal Cannabis for quite some time now, and from this we would like to put in a submission to the Committee 'A', so that we could report and inquire about the use of Cannabis for Medical Purposes.

We would like to address the following:

- 1) The Government has every right to be concerned about the harms and effect of unregulated cannabis use, even more so with our young population, where the risks can be serious, and unregulated use is high. On saying that the Government should be fully aware of the benefits of regulated cannabis use with people with serious, and chronic pain, often from a terminal illness, who are unresponsive to conventional medication and in whom the potential benefits outweigh the risks. With correct regulation guidelines, facilities and procedures, trials for medical cannabis should be able to go ahead in the right environment. We could, in conjunction with the University or any other approved organisation, do this in a safe and effective manner.
- 2) Scientific studies of Medicinal Cannabis show that the side effects are generally mild and non-serious. The side effects of Medicinal Cannabis should be compared to the side effects of other drugs that is likely to be used in these patients or the nature and severity of the original symptoms. Medicinal cannabis can be taken as tincture (preferred option), in pill form or inhaled as a vapour and does not have to be smoked. Medicinal Cannabis should not be taken with tobacco.
- 3) The legal implications and barriers to the use of Medicinal Cannabis can be over come by having very strict guidelines and laws. Patients with severe pain and suffering on the approval of an approved professional, such as a doctor, can prescribe medicinal cannabis, to be obtained from a certified premises, such as pharmacy, hospital, or any approved government distribution centre. Any-one falling out of these guidelines will be faced with penalties, and could be charged, and or have their licence revoked.
- 4) The legal implications and barriers to growing and commercialisation of cannabis flower and extracted cannabinoids in Tasmania would have to be a scientific-based approach, as in approved institutions, in conjunction with a management programme, to over-see and thoroughly control the programme to ensure, quality control, consistency, reliability, and for the ongoing research and development of cannabis-based medicines. With the correct management and procedures in place this can be achieved with outstanding success. This has been achieved in the USA & Netherlands, and it has proven to be successful.

5) The Tasmanian impact on agricultural, and or other sectors by growing medicinal cannabis can be completely controlled to have zero impact. This is done, by strict regulation controls, environmental impact studies, quality control feeding programmes, approved products only to be used and secure location/s. This has been achieved with great success in many US states, with Denver and many other US state leading the way. Medicinal Cannabis can also be grown in a hothouse and/or indoors in a hydroponic situation with complete control environment. With-out any regulation (non-approved Growers), the impact on the environment can be quite significant, as in clearing land, using non-approved chemical, fertilisers, and any other flow on effects. That is why it is very important to have strict regulations and very good management programmes in place.

6) The way forward for the Legalised Medicinal Cannabis to go ahead is using information from other parts of the world where it is run very successful under very strict guidelines, regulated trials, using a scientific-based approach, and feed-back from Medical Professionals, patients with acute pain suffering, people with terminal illness, and any-one that may have had involvement with this process, for positive and/or negative results.

Green Acres Hydroponics, has extensive knowledge on this matter, by talking to the public, people that currently suffer with acute pain suffering, terminal ill patients, what has been happening overseas, information from trials and processes already in place overseas. With the backing of our major international suppliers (House & Garden, Canna and Nutrifield), Green Acres is very well placed to help go forward with this matter.

Kind Regards,

Andrew Clifford/ Rodney Fischer (Directors)

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