



MEDIA RELEASE

26 March 2015

LEGALISED MEDICINAL CANNABIS FINAL REPORT

The Legislative Council Committee inquiring into legalised medicinal cannabis has today released a Final Report and concluded its Inquiry into legalised medicinal cannabis under the current terms of reference.

Inquiry Chair, the Hon Ruth Forrest MLC, said “the decision to conclude the Inquiry was the result of a number of significant developments that have occurred at the Federal level and in other States since the release of the Interim Report of the Committee on 20 November 2014.”

The primary developments include the introduction of the *Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014* to the Senate and the commitment of the NSW Government to clinical trials to further explore the use of cannabis and/or cannabis products in providing relief for patients suffering from a range of debilitating or terminal illnesses.

The Committee considered that to continue the Inquiry in light of these significant developments may be duplicative and unnecessary

"There is broad support for the *Regulator of Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2014* which is evidenced by the cross-party endorsement of the Bill. If supported legislative change will most likely be required in Tasmania," Ms Forrest stated.

The Committee supports the program of clinical trials established by the NSW Government and notes that Tasmania has a proven security record under the *Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961* that could be applied to the cultivation, extraction and processing of cannabis products for medical purposes.

"Legislative change is also needed if Tasmanians are to legally access medicinal cannabis," Ms Forrest stated.

The Committee will give consideration to a further inquiry into any matters raised by these developments if this is considered necessary in the future.

The Final Report of the Committee includes the Interim Report and both should be considered in their entirety as the Final Report of the Committee. The Report should be a primary reference to assist the Premier at future COAG meetings when medicinal cannabis is listed as an agenda item.

The Final Report is available on the parliament of Tasmania website at:
http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/Council/GovAdminA_LMC.htm

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