

6 March 2017

MEDICINAL CANNABIS

The Parkinson's community of Queensland will be very aware the Queensland Parliament passed the [Public Health \(Medicinal Cannabis\) Act 2016](#) into law and it became effective from 1 March 2017. This legislation creates a regulatory framework allowing medicinal cannabis products to be prescribed and dispensed to patients in Queensland and prevent unauthorised use of these products. Any cannabis used outside of the regulatory framework is illegal.

The Act balances allowing greater use of medicinal cannabis products, and ensuring medicinal cannabis products are used safely and not diverted for unlawful purposes. The regulatory framework will be reviewed after 2 years to:

- ensure it is meeting the needs of patients, health service providers and enforcement agencies
- reflect any developments in the evidence base.

The Queensland initiatives ensure that foundations are in place to make it possible to access medicinal cannabis treatment. The new regulations mean there are strong controls around treatment with medicinal cannabis.

These changes do not broadly legalise cannabis. Any cannabis grown, supplied or used outside of the proposed regulatory framework, at the Commonwealth and State levels, will remain illegal, regardless of the motive.

Parkinson's Queensland recognises there has been some anecdotal comment circulated of late suggesting that medicinal cannabis *may* have some effect in relieving symptoms of Parkinson's disease. The ***scientific evidence and research data does not yet support that.***

It is not yet certain that persons with Parkinson's will be able to obtain **Medicinal Cannabis** under the Act until such time as Registered Prescribers who treat people with Parkinson's have been approved by the **Therapeutic Goods Administration** and **Queensland Health**.

Parkinson's Queensland appreciates that Medicinal Cannabis is of interest to many of its members, and will endeavour to continue to provide up-to-date information as it becomes available.

Parkinson's Queensland encourages all people affected by Parkinson's to consult with their health professionals and to act within the laws of Queensland and Australia at all times.



Mark Hindle.
Chief Executive Officer

End of Statement