



HEALTH AUSTRALIA PARTY

People. Environment. Democracy. Society. Economy.

27th April 2019

Email: media@healthaustraliaparty.com.au

Website: www.healthaustraliaparty.com.au

OFFICIAL STATEMENT Medicinal Cannabis

When elected, the Health Australia Party (HAP) will call for the immediate legalisation of Australian grown, non-GMO, pesticide-free and organically produced cannabis for medicinal purposes, including raw forms and proprietary forms of whole plant medicinal cannabis products.

The HAP understands that currently there are organisations based in Australia who already have the means to produce large quantities of medicinal cannabis at a significantly reduced price compared to the prescription-only synthetic cannabis currently available, via a complicated access system, to Australians. Easily accessible and affordable medicinal cannabis has the potential not only to relieve the suffering of Australians with a range of medical conditions, but also to significantly reduce the current healthcare debt. It also has the potential to become an export commodity and generate jobs for Australians.

In addition to the above, the HAP will also support the ability of Australian's to grow up to 6 mature plants at home for personal medicinal use only. The HAP however stresses that in supporting such a measure, we do not advocate for or recommend smoking in any capacity as the damaging effects of smoking any substance is well documented. People who utilize cannabis for personal self-medicating purposes (such as anxiety/depression) are also strongly encouraged to explore wholistic approaches.

In addition to changes relating to medicinal cannabis, the HAP believes the potential benefits of full legalisation should be analysed. Following the legalization of cannabis in states around the world, there have been positive social and health outcomes observed. In the 17 American states where cannabis has been legalised, prescriptions for painkillers and other classes of drugs fell sharply compared with other states where cannabis remained illegal. The average doctor each year prescribed 265 fewer doses of antidepressants, 486 fewer doses of seizure medication, 541 fewer anti-nausea doses and 562 fewer doses of anti-anxiety medications. Most strikingly, the typical doctor prescribed 1,826 fewer doses of painkillers in a given year*.

In addition to wiping out the black market, an average 13% reduction in violent crimes were also observed in states bordering Mexico as drug cartels lost business to legal use. We understand that some may have concerns that such a measure would result in an increase in the number of recreational users, particularly in minors. However, not one jurisdiction, either in the U.S. or elsewhere, has seen a marked increase in teen use following legalisation. In fact, teen use in both Colorado and Washington, the pioneer states of cannabis legalisation, have dropped to their lowest level in more than two decades.