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Cannabis is a health issue not a crime

Hundreds of recent studies validate the therapeutic use of cannabis and cannabinoids.

Thousands of New Zealand patients need safe legal access to medicinal cannabis for the treatment or relief of symptoms of many conditions including:

- Alzheimer's Disease
- ALS
- Chronic Pain
- Diabetes Mellitus
- Dystonia
- Fibromyalgia
- GI Disorders
- Gliomas/Cancer
- Hepatitis C
- HIV
- Hypertension
- Incontinence
- MRSA
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Osteoporosis
- Pruritus
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Sleep Apnea
- Tourette's Syndrome

NORML's Principles of Responsible Cannabis Use

- Adults Only
- No Driving While Impaired
- Consider Set and Setting
- Resist Abuse
- Respect the Rights of Others

learn more at www.norml.org.nz/about/responsible-use/



HELP US REFORM THE LAW

See our website www.norml.org.nz

'Like' us at facebook.com/normlnz

Contact us at info@norml.org.nz

Make a donation to NORML NZ Inc (ASB Bank)

12-3057-0594667-00

Write or visit your MP - *it does make a difference*

Yes, I want to join NORML and help stop the war against cannabis users. Sign me up as a member!

- ☐ \$100 = Exceptional Membership
- ☐ \$50 = Sustaining Membership
- ☐ \$20 = Regular Membership
- ☐ \$10 = concession for students, unwaged, senior citizens
- ☐ Donation towards campaign materials: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/town: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____ ☐ don't email me news and updates

Ideas/Skills: _____

RT02/12 OFFICE USE. RCV: _____ SNT: _____ ENT: _____



MEDICAL CANNABIS

Safe legal access to
effective medicine



Patients deserve safe legal access to cannabis, an effective medicine

The cannabis plant has been part of humanity's medicine chest for almost as long as history has been recorded.

Of all the negative consequences of cannabis prohibition, none is as tragic as the denial of medicinal cannabis to the tens of thousands of patients who could benefit from its therapeutic use.

Modern research suggests that cannabis is a valuable aid in the treatment of a wide range of clinical applications. These include pain relief - particularly of neuropathic pain (pain from nerve damage) - nausea, spasticity, glaucoma, and movement disorders. Cannabis is also a powerful appetite stimulant, specifically for patients suffering from HIV, the AIDS wasting syndrome, or dementia. Emerging research suggests that the medicinal properties of cannabis may protect the body against some types of malignant tumors and are neuroprotective.

Currently, more than 60 international health organizations support granting patients immediate legal access to medicinal cannabis under a physician's supervision.

Medicinal cannabis overseas

The medicinal use of cannabis is legal in 16 states of the USA including California and Washington DC, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Canada and Israel. One million Californians can now legally purchase medical cannabis at dispensaries or they may grow their own.

Research shows allowing medicinal cannabis will not effect overall use rates or teenager's attitudes towards drug use. In fact, medicinal cannabis law reform is associated with reduced teen use rates¹ as well as reduced road deaths.²

References: 1 goo.gl/OmEyR; 2 goo.gl/rnbFO;
3 goo.gl/zns3B; 4 goo.gl/IGP9n



PHOTO: HARMINDER DHESI

The New Zealand situation

- Thousands of sick and ill Kiwis may already be using medicinal cannabis illegally. If caught they are often arrested and charged as criminals. Illicit cannabis can be difficult to find, hard to afford, and contaminated with mould or chemicals.
- One in five doctors have patients who they know are using cannabis medicinally and many more would consider prescribing it if they were allowed, according to a 2003 survey of doctors by the Green Party.³
- A 2006 3News TNS poll showed 63 percent of New Zealanders would support a law change allowing doctors to prescribe cannabis,⁴ however a Green Party bill to allow cannabis to be prescribed was defeated 84-34 that year.
- In 2011 the Law Commission recommended police not prosecute medicinal cannabis patients.
- The UK-made cannabis extract *Sativex* is now available on prescription. This is a step forward, but patients must arrange their own funding and may have better relief using herbal cannabis.

 **ASK YOUR MP TO SUPPORT SAFE LEGAL ACCESS TO MEDICINAL CANNABIS**

Answering concerns about medicinal cannabis use

A lack of evidence? There have been more clinical trials for cannabis than most FDA-approved drugs

Smoking is harmful? Usually outweighed by the medical benefits, smoke can also be avoided by using tinctures, edibles or vaporisers.

Can't supply it? Patients can grow their own, or licences could be issued for approved growers such as in 16 of the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, Germany and Israel.

Talking to your doctor & how to apply for *Sativex*®

If you use cannabis medicinally, discuss it with your doctor. If you get in trouble with the law, having your doctor on side may really help. Your doctor can now prescribe the cannabis extract *Sativex* (although you will have to arrange your own funding for it). They could also apply to the Minister of Health for a license to prescribe cannabis to you (s14 Misuse of Drugs Act). Search online for research relating to your condition, and show these to your doctor. See the following websites for more information:

- International Association for Cannabinoid Medicines www.cannabis-med.org
- University of California's Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research www.cmcr.ucsd.edu
- Green Cross Patient's Co-op greencross.org.nz
- Sativex application form medsafe.govt.nz
- more at norml.org.nz/about/medical/

