



New South Wales Government



Tasmanian Government

Memorandum of Understanding

between

The State of New South Wales

and

The State of Tasmania

in relation to

Medicinal Cannabis

This document represents an understanding between the parties made on the
tenth day of December 2015

The Governments of New South Wales and Tasmania (the Parties) have a shared interest in, and commitment to:

- better understanding the therapeutic potential of medicinal cannabis to provide relief for people suffering from a range of serious illnesses;
- providing medically supervised access to safe and effective medicinal cannabis products for the treatment of certain illnesses; and
- developing the capacity for the cultivation of cannabis for medicinal or scientific purposes in Australia under nationally coherent arrangements.

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to affirm the Parties' commitment to work closely together to progress a range of medicinal cannabis initiatives.

These initiatives include clinical trials and further research, as well as the development of cultivation capacity.

The Parties are also committed to working closely with the Commonwealth, and other states and territories, to achieve a nationally coherent and efficient approach to the regulation of, and access to, safe and effective medicinal cannabis products.

Activities

The Parties will pursue the following activities.

Clinical trials

The Parties recognise that NSW has committed \$9 million over 5 years for clinical trials that will explore the use of cannabis and cannabis products in providing relief for people suffering from a range of serious illnesses.

Preparation for the trials, focussing on children with severe, drug-resistant epilepsy, adults with terminal illness, and adults experiencing

chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, is well advanced. Patient enrolment and some initial results are expected in 2016.

The Parties will explore opportunities for Tasmanian patients to participate in the trials, subject to limitations including logistics, the number of patients required for each study, the number of eligible patients able to be recruited in NSW and product supply.

Further, the Parties affirm their support of other groups looking to pursue product development so that additional ethical, clinical research can be conducted to increase the Parties' understanding of the therapeutic potential of medicinal cannabis.

Cultivation and regulation

The Parties support the Commonwealth Government's announcement that it will establish a national licensing scheme to enable the cultivation of medicinal cannabis for medical and scientific purposes.

The Parties agree that a nationally coherent approach is desirable.

The Parties recognise that Tasmania has a proven track record in regulating the cultivation of restricted medicinal crops, most notably poppies, and is recognised as one of the leading jurisdictions in the world in the regulation of restricted horticultural products.

The Parties will pursue coherent state-level approaches, learning from the Tasmanian Government's knowledge and experience derived through the successful regulation of poppy cultivation.

The Parties will also explore opportunities for collaborative state-based cultivation trials to enhance the Parties' understanding of medicinal cannabis cultivation, including an examination of the impact of different growing conditions on cannabinoid production.

Joint research

The Parties will encourage joint research between their respective research institutions.

In the first instance, the Parties will facilitate connections between the University of Tasmania which is globally recognised for the quality of health professional education, transformative health and medical research and NSW universities such as the University of Sydney which incorporates the Lambert Initiative for Cannabinoid Therapeutics, and Southern Cross University which has expertise in plant science.

The Parties will also identify options to convene joint symposia to examine topics of mutual interest.

Information exchange to ensure best-practice approaches

The Parties share their respective knowledge and expertise to ensure that a best-practice approach to the regulation of, and access to, safe and effective medicinal cannabis products is taken.

General

Nothing in this document:

- gives rise to any legally enforceable rights or obligations as between the parties;
- creates any legal liability of any kind as between the parties;
- creates any expectation on the parties that they will take any action that they are not legally able to;
- requires a party to negotiate any matter in any way contrary to its own interests or requirements; or
- is intended to prevent, is to be taken to prevent, or prevents, the free exercise by the Governor, by any member of the Executive Council, or by any Minister of the Crown, of any duties or authorities of his or her office.

Signed for and on behalf of the State of New South Wales by its duly authorised officer:



The Hon. Mike Baird MP
Premier of New South Wales

Signature of
Witness:

Name of
Witness:

Date:

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Tasmania by its duly authorised officer:



The Hon. Will Hodgman MP
Premier of Tasmania

Signature of
Witness:

Name of
Witness:

Date: