

The way the rules currently stand, as a licenced industrial hemp grower in WA I must throw the flower of the crop on the bin. Each year there are millions of dollars of crops being buried and years worth of medicine for people in need being wasted. In the same year, I have been legally importing products from the US that have been made from an industrial hemp crop and have been supplying them to pharmacies to supply under the SAS B system. So I can legally import industrial hemp from another country and supply it to pharmacies as a medicine but I must throw the flower from my own industrial hemp crop in the bin... can you see how this doesn't quite seem right?

I would love to see a rule change occur that allows the use of the whole plant from an industrial hemp crop. The ideal scenario would be to have an over the counter, nutraceutical and food industry where we can make low THC hemp products for multiple uses such as foods, nutraceuticals and a range of other things.

As a last resort and at the very least, we should be able to supply the biomass or extracts from our industrial hemp crop to medicinal cannabis manufacturers so we don't have to put it in the bin.

In regards to the medicinal cannabis system, currently in WA we have extra restrictions that no other state has. With the WA state health being involved in the SASB system it creates extra delays in approvals and also comes with restrictions such as a 30mg THC daily limit which makes it near impossible to properly treat many patients. Recently the WA state health decided that if a patient wants more than 2 cannabis medicines then they will require specialist approval. This doesn't seem to be a law but more an opinion that was brought in without any real medical or scientific reason, in fact we were forced to take away medicines from our patients that they has been on for years and were having amazing results with.

These unwarranted restrictions have forced most cannabis companies in WA to send their patients to pharmacies over east to bypass these restrictions, so the rules aren't preventing anything other than WA patients getting their medicines in WA. I feel WA state health government aren't quite sure on the exact things they are regulating and thus there are some rules in place that are not only restrictive but quite unsafe when it comes to the health of our patients. By restricting the dose of a medicine someone can have in a day or how many medicines that person can be prescribed it is forcing patients back to the black market to be able to fully get on top of their ailments, the exact opposite of what we are trying to achieve.

I feel WA health should step aside and leave it to the TGA like all other states have done.

I feel licenced industrial hemp growers should be able to use the whole plant, whether as a food or a medicine, anything is better than putting it in the bin. By being allowed to use the most valuable part of the plant it will only lead to more growers, more investment, more products, a larger industry and a healthier WA.