

My Journey with Medicinal Cannabis

My journey began in 2012 when I was first diagnosed with Large B-Cell Non Hodgkins Lymphoma in the R Sacrum. The regime then was R-CHOP with 4 weeks of Radiotherapy including a barrage of medication which took their toll on my system-the constant bone pain, nausea, loss of appetite & sleeplessness were difficult to treat and took 18 months for me to recover. Eventually receiving a diagnosis of remission.

Fast forward to December 2016 when the Cancer returned only this time spreading to the L Femur as well as the R Sacrum. The regime this time was extremely harsh having R-GDP, R-ICE, BEAM, Radiotherapy then Stem Cell Transplant.

This time around, I was determined to source legal Medicinal Cannabis as I was loathe to obtain any illegally-even though it was constantly offered! Unfortunately, my Haematologist as fantastic as he was, had various 'excuses' as to being unable to apply for the oil, even my local & Federal Members of Parliament were unable to assist! This went on for 18 months, until finally I was referred to a Palliative Care doctor for 'symptom management control' as I was extremely unwell & no amount of prescribed medication was helping me!

The regime of treatment & medication (too many to name, however were schedule 8 meds) once again took their toll on my system. I had mentioned to all my Doctors & Specialists that as I had used every conventional medication prescribed to me, I could not recover (even though I had been told I was in remission again) that I wanted to try the Medicinal Cannabis Oil.

On my first visit to the Palliative Care Doctor, Dr A (which was on a Wednesday) I hesitantly mentioned the Medicinal Cannabis Oil & was pleasantly surprised when she replied, 'well Lina, I have just prescribed this for another patient, let us try for you!' To say I was overwhelmed was an understatement! The following Monday Dr A's beautiful nurse rang me to give me the 'good news' that the Medicinal Cannabis had been approved & a prescription was ready for me to pick up-bearing in mind that I had been trying unsuccessfully for 18 months & here was Dr A having it approved in less than a week!!

It was only a matter of a couple of weeks taking the oil that my health began to improve, in all honesty, prior to beginning the oil I was admitted to Murdoch Palliative Care for a week & my family & I did not think I would see out the year. Slowly but surely as the metered dosage increased, so did my health & well-being, all of the symptoms that I had been experiencing, the severe nausea & vomiting, sleeplessness, loss of appetite & severe bone pain had subsided so much so that I began to function in a normal capacity, eventually 'weaning' off all of the schedule 8 opiates & other medication, relying solely on Medicinal Cannabis Oil!

I realise that Medicinal Cannabis is not a 'fix all' for everyone, however I strongly believe that one should at least be given the opportunity to use it (correctly prescribed) if they so wish. I am very passionate about informing others of the wonderful qualities that the Oil has to offer, so much so, that as I live in a small rural town, I am constantly contacted & asked (even by people I have never met) how to go about sourcing the Oil legally, & I am happy to note that of the many who enquired were fortunate enough to obtain theirs.

Medicinal Cannabis Oil has had a huge impact on my life, as previously stated, I did not think that I would be sitting here today, in remission, working & living life to the fullest, yet here I am, a testament to not only being a Cancer survivor for a second time, but having the opportunity to use my personal experience as a tool to help others in their journey.

I hope that sharing a 'little' about my experience with cancer and Cannabis Oil has a positive impact towards the legalisation of Medicinal Cannabis Oil!