

I am a 65-year-old male with chronic and severe osteoarthritis, (due to an MVA that occurred during my childhood) that reduces my ability to sleep as well as impairs my mobility. I have been prescribed NSAIDs for pain relief, as well as paracetamol. I find that these medications do little to alleviate my discomfort and that their side effects are unacceptable. Rather than using opioids, I have for the last year been medicating with CBD. This has resulted in a marked improvement of my symptoms and allows me to sleep without interruption at night.

I have sourced my CBD from the USA via the internet as it is considerably cheaper than the scripted similar product available in Australia. Due to stricter shipping codes, I now find that I can no longer purchase CBD overseas.

As I am on a carers pension, (my wife has Alzheimer's), I find that the price of using CBD is prohibitive. With so much medical evidence as to the benefits (of medical marijuana), and on my personal experiences, I fail to understand why CBD is not on the pharmaceutical benefits scheme.

Access to medical marijuana is out of reach to anyone on a low income or any sort of pension.

Of especial importance would be access to those on a disability pension, those in fact, who would be more likely to require Medical Marijuana.

Those with a legitimate need, (such as myself) are denied access, simply due to their financial position. Medical Marijuana is known to be a legitimate treatment for many different symptoms and pathologies, but due to an outdated and undeserved stigma, its use, no matter how beneficial, will remain beyond the reach of those who need it most.

It is time for a fresh approach to a much-maligned drug, and medical marijuana needs to be accepted as a mainstream pharmaceutical, and therefore listed on the PBS.