

## **Submissions R v Barry Futter – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**Att: His Honour Roy Ellis**

Your Honour,

In the past, the term “to throw oneself on the mercy of the court” is commonly portrayed in movies. However, THIS is not a movie or a show Your Honour. I ask not to throw MYSELF at the mercy of the court and therefore you, I ask instead that you show mercy for the thousands of people who have been relieved of extreme suffering already, and those that are desperately seeking our help and who will have nowhere to go if I am restricted from continuing the work I am doing.

How do I know these people, Australian citizens and their families, will have somewhere to go, and possibly thousands will again be left without their plant medicine?

Last Monday a colleague and I attended a meeting at the Medical Cannabis Section of the Office of Drug control in Canberra with both the director and the assistant Director of this department. This section is responsible for granting the current Medical Cannabis licenses for Cultivation, Research & Manufacture. The following points were raised:

- There have been over 100 licenses either approved or in process.
- Approximately 50 bodies corporate have been fully approved
- At present Australia has a prescription only patient access scheme where there currently is NOT ONE Australian registered Medical Cannabis product available with ONE in current approval process which is a pharmaceutical called Epidiolex produced by GW Pharmaceutical from the UK. Which means there is NO readily available cannabis medicine available for the sick and dying.
- The Director himself said “his hands were tied” as he personally advocates for an authority access scheme as in the U.S however his “voice was drowned out” by other persons in power in that same building. Even the DIRECTOR of this decision-making government body cannot provide for change even as he wanted it (in his own words).

In short there is no cannabis medicine currently available and will not be available in the near and/ or foreseeable future. Yes it may be available in 12-18months, but for the people like the ones who have written such heartfelt testimonies, even 2 months may be too late, or 12 months longer for children already suffering horrific seizures with horrific effects on their and their families’ very existence.

Your honour, take mercy on the people who are getting my help.

Barry John Futter