



Minister for Health and  
Minister for Ambulance Services  
Member for Woodridge

27 APR 2015

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Mr Neil Laurie  
Clerk of the Parliament  
Queensland Parliamentary Service  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 2361-15, tabled in Parliament on 27 March 2015, in relation to cannabis for medical purposes.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your concerns. The current evidence on cannabis suggests that some pharmacological cannabinoid substances might have value in the treatment of a very limited range of medical conditions, but it is generally agreed that more research is required.

As you would be aware, the issues related to the medicinal use of cannabis are being closely scrutinised by State and Federal governments across Australia. The Queensland Government recently announced it will participate in the interstate clinical trials to further evaluate the potential need for, and use of, pharmaceutical cannabis preparations.

The findings from the clinical trials will take time to work through and if they prove that such medicines are a useful addition to existing treatments, it is expected that recommendations will be made to reflect this. On the basis of these recommendations, the Parliament will be in a better position to consider any changes that might be required to Queensland legislation.

I would like to thank Ms Carter for promoting this petition to the people of Queensland in an important and emerging area of public health concern. I want to assure your petitioners that the Government takes this matter very seriously, but must balance the evidence to ensure the best outcomes for all Queenslanders. Any new medical treatments must meet appropriate standards of safety and effectiveness to both assist patients and protect the community from any negative consequences.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cameron Dick", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**CAMERON DICK**  
**Minister for Health**  
**Minister for Ambulance Services**