

Medicinal Cannabis Industry in South Australia



WHAT IS IT?

Medicinal cannabis is also known as medicinal marijuana. Medicinal cannabis products may be used in at least 20 countries either to treat medical conditions or improve symptoms of medical conditions.

Extract from the dried flower bud of the plant has certain medicinal properties. The two cannabinoids—delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD) can be treatment options for health conditions such as pain, blood pressure, memory, concentration, appetite, sensory stimulus, muscular problems and seizures.

Medicinal cannabis products cover a range of approved, quality assured preparations intended for human therapeutic use, including some pharmaceutical cannabis preparations such as tablets, oils, tinctures and other extracts.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- Medicinal cannabis products made from Australian grown cannabis crops could be available late in 2017. Which products become available will depend on product safety and quality, medical research and commercial producers.
- Education forums organised for health professionals to inform about the subject and products.
- Clinical trials involving Australian patients will provide evidence of responses to medicinal cannabis.
- Consultations on the export of medicinal cannabis products have shown overwhelming support to allow export of such products. However, the Australian government is yet to decide whether to allow future export of medicinal cannabis products.

TO FIND OUT MORE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP AND MEDICINAL CANNABIS

- The Government of South Australia has established The Office to support the establishment of the two industries.
- The Office acts as a single point of contact to industry and across government to facilitate collaboration between cultivators, manufacturers, researchers and industry associations. On medicinal cannabis, the Office works in close partnership with SA Health.
- The South Australian Government is committed to ensuring South Australian consumers have access to the optimal range of safe and effective treatments and services to promote the best health outcomes for patients and the community collaborating to a national approach that is based on evidence and clinical assessment.

MARKET INSIGHTS

- The domestic market for medicinal cannabis is worth an estimated \$100m a year. There is plenty of interest in local production.
- A significant number of companies have applied to the Office of Drug Control (ODC) for licences to grow, cultivate, produce and manufacture or research medicinal cannabis in Australia and already licences have been granted. The ODC website lists the number and type of licences issued.
- Flinders Medical Centre has taken part in the world's first Phase 2 trial of cannabidiol for the treatment of epilepsy.
- Cannabidiol, containing 2% or less of other cannabinoids found in cannabis, is being prescribed by doctors in SA from products listed on the ODC website.
- The TGA is developing guidelines on medicinal cannabis compounds and medical conditions to inform medical practitioners.
- Clinical evidence of efficacy, with Australian patient data, will help the market and supply chain develop.



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