



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGEING, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Dr Chris Bourke MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Wall MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Ms Nicole Lawder MLA.

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC SUBMISSION

Inquiry into Exposure Draft of the Drugs of Dependence (Cannabis Use for Medical Purposes) Amendment Bill 2014 and the related discussion paper

The Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services is calling for submissions to its inquiry into the Exposure Draft of the *Drugs of Dependence (Cannabis Use for Medical Purposes) Amendment Bill 2014* and related discussion paper.

On 7 August 2014, the Legislative Assembly referred the Exposure Draft and discussion paper to the Standing Committee for its consideration. The Committee is required to report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day in June 2015.

The Bill seeks to amend the *Drugs of Dependence Act 1989* to enable a person to apply in writing to the Chief Health Officer for approval to possess and use cannabis for medical purposes specified in three different categories. Applications must be accompanied by a medical declaration by a doctor. The Bill also provides for the Chief Health Officer to grant a one-year licence to cultivate cannabis for the purposes of an approval.

The Bill and the Discussion Paper are available at: http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/ed/db_50263/default.asp

The Committee invites submissions from interested organisations and individuals to its inquiry. Written submissions should be lodged with the Committee Secretary by **Friday, 13 February**.

The Committee prefers all submissions to be lodged in electronic form (Word format), although handwritten submissions are acceptable. All submissions, including those sent electronically, must include an email address, a postal address and a telephone contact number.

Submissions should be forwarded to:

The Committee Secretary, Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services,
Legislative Assembly for the ACT, GPO Box 1020, CANBERRA ACT 2601. Fax (02) 6205 0432

Email: committees@parliament.act

The Committee intends to hold public hearings in early 2015 to assist its inquiry and invites you to indicate in your submission whether you would like to appear at public hearing. Please be aware that the decision on the final witness list rests with the Committee.

Further information lodging a submission is available at: <http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-committees/Getting-involved>.

For further information or to lodge a submission please contact the Committee Secretary, Mrs Nicola Kosseck on 620 50435 or email at: committees@parliament.act.gov.au.