



mcua

Medical Cannabis Users Association of Australia

To the Cannabis Community

As the two biggest patient advocacy groups in Australia, we have come together in a united front to address issues which we can no longer ignore.

As you are all aware a journalist from The New Daily, Christiane Barro, has been on a mission to expose certain members of our community and their products. This 6 month investigation resulted in the article published in The New Daily, titled *The cannabis oil 'healers' preying on Australia's sick and dying*.

This 'investigation' has caused fear and mistrust; and has created a divide in our once harmonious community and it is time for us to speak up.

The perpetrator behind this article is a man by the name of Steve Short. He has been removed from many cannabis groups already, but he continues to infect others with his vitriol.

Steve as you may be aware has stalked and provoked many members of this community, discrediting anyone who may oppose him, often over misinformation and hearsay claiming it to be truth.

He has a vendetta against many reputable people in this community, and has engaged with journalists to further his witch hunt.

He is even going as far as providing and promoting non-Cannabis product's, causing issues for "patients" and creating further confusion in his attempt to further destabilise a fragile community.

It appears that this disruption was done purposefully to aid Government departments and to help facilitate implementation of a full pharmaceutical model, whereby THC is evil and promoted as "non medicinal" "UNSAFE" and "intoxicating".

The offending article is the result of his handiwork. It is a totally unbalanced, disjointed and immature piece of writing. The author spoke to several sources reporting the negative argument including the ONE patient she interviewed. There was no objective viewpoint expressed by users or providers to counter her claims. A fine example of Yellow journalism – sensationalism over truth at any cost.

Medical Cannabis Oil Australia and
Medical Cannabis Users Association of Australia Inc

cc to The Daily Mail
cc to

Let us start with the misleading headline: *The cannabis oil 'healers' preying on Australia's sick and dying.*

Our healers have no need to “prey” on patients. Patients are seeking out our healers in droves, because the Govt. have made it too hard to get affordable easy access to legal products. Everyday, the MCUA, the MCOA and our “healers” have hundreds of people contacting them begging them to help. The government has created this situation.

“A top Australian research facility, which did not want to be named, independently tested these products...”

This immediately sheds doubt on the validity of the results.

Perhaps the testing facility was not licensed? How would this journalist get access to a reputable facility without their committing an illegal act? Cannabis can only be supplied to a laboratory for testing by an authorised person. (1) We question the legitimacy of a facility that would knowingly commit an illegal act for a journalist.

“The author made claims that samples tested showed “Patients are being sold fake, poisonous and intoxicating products manufactured in backyard laboratories across Australia.” and that “.... products tested had no medicinal value’...”

How does one test for / measure ‘medicinal value’ ?

Please explain and/or define “fake” cannabis?

How many deaths and hospitalisations have occurred and been officially recorded in statistics in the last 3-4 years to reflect the massive increase in use of the “poisonous and dangerous” home made cannabis medicine? Real statistics – not guess work.

Backyard laboratories in the main are home kitchens. Many patients either make for themselves or have a loved one make for them in their home; others ask experienced users to assist them to obtain herb and make medicine for them. Still others purchase from online providers while others are lucky enough to snag a compassionate supply. This has enabled access for thousands of people as opposed to the 153 prescriptions issued in the past 12 months.

The majority of patients were not informed of the exact amount of each active chemical present in their products...

Cannabis is a herbal remedy NOT a pharma medicine. No two products will be exactly the same. The government knows it will not stop this tidal wave now and it has to recognise this and act responsibly by putting facilities in place for patients to have access to product testing as a matter of urgency and in the interest of public safety.

The unlicensed suppliers are sending cannabis oil that contains dangerous chemicals that could lead to cancer...” Phenol, .. was also detected in another product

The insinuation is that this chemical is somehow added during the process – perhaps as a cleaning agent for bottles or equipment. The generally accepted and preferred method is alcohol and boiling water - not Dettol.

Phenol is a part of the plant.(2) Phenolic compounds play an important role in Cancer prevention and treatment. Phenolic compounds from medicinal herbs and dietary plants include Phenolic Acids, flavonoids, tannins, stilbenes, curcuminoids, lignans, quinones and others.(2)

2-Naphthuric acid (derived from naphthalene), a chemical obtained from petroleum and used as an insect repellent, accounted for up to a quarter of the total detectable content in five different medical cannabis products.....

Again, the author is trying to insinuate that this compound was ‘added’ to the oils. We are refuting that claim. Depending on where the plant is grown, area, etc, “Naphthuric Acid is an organic compound present in insects, soil, and even air, especially in areas of extensive coal mining/processing and natural deposits, remaining in the soil for anywhere up to 80 days after introduction and can occur as part of the decarboxylation process.” (3)

It seems the author has just looked up the first thing she has found to match the name and reported it as being in the oil, with no understanding of how it naturally occurs and how it manifests during decarboxylation.

Laboratories testing products should know the difference between poisons and naturally occurring components of cannabis. It is time for our government admit they are wrong and accept help from the cannabis oil “healers” in the community who are working at the coal face now and getting results.

Seven of the 14 products contained no CBD, and one sample, prescribed to a cancer patient, recorded as much as 47 per cent THC, which is enough to “get you stoned”, Safe Work Laboratories forensic toxicologist Andrew Leibie told The New Daily.

Without knowing who did the testing, or what methods were used – these results are debatable at the very least.

We question the testing and equipment used. We question the lack of transparency in regards to the testing specifics and parameters used in the testing. These were not defined. Was testing done for Cannabinoids, Contaminants/ Pathogens and residual Solvents?

No graphs or tests were presented as evidence. Therefore we demand full disclosure.

Interestingly the author then makes this comparison: *Dr Reggie Gaudino, from Steep Hill, a US cannabis-testing laboratory, quoted the price of cannabis at \$2400 for approximately half a kilogram. AND stated that (our healers are charging) people \$6000 for up to three months’ supply.*

The cost quoted is a regulated supply in the US. Our market is unregulated, and dependent on availability, quality and greed. When converted to aussie dollars the \$2400 is equivalent to \$3062. Lower quality flower produces less oil so more raw product may be needed. On top of that, there are extraction fluid; syringes and capsules; electricity; package and postage and risk factor to be considered.

The author goes on to quote

Antony Condina, chief executive of GD Pharma, a licensed manufacturer of medicines including cannabis, (who) says the black market products are “dangerous”, and the suppliers must halt production because the oils they are dispensing pose a major “public health concern”.

Of course.. Why would he say anything else? He has a license to manufacture and illicit oil makers are a threat to his prospective profit margins. This invalidates his opinion and is a sad reflection of this failed attempt at an expose.

We bring this issue to you in good faith, united from all sectors. We have addressed this matter with truth on our side and we stand together to put an end to all attempts to further scatter and destabilise "Our Community" and divert us from our course to end prohibition so everyone has access to our herb.

MCOA and
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REFERENCE LIST

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