



The Hon Mark Butler MP
Minister for Health and Ageing
Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme

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Dr Nick Yim
President
Australian Medical Association Queensland
c/o [REDACTED]

Dear Dr Yim *Nick*

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 July 2025, cosigned by Professor Brett Emmerson AM, Mr Chris Owen and Dr Cath Hester, regarding the request for urgent reform of medicinal cannabis regulation.

I would again like to assure you and your colleagues that the regulation of medicinal cannabis is a priority for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. We are actively working with other health regulators in Australia to address concerns regarding the increased use of medicinal cannabis, particularly products with a high concentration of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

The department shares the growing concerns of state and territory health departments, peak medical bodies and the medicinal cannabis industry. We are collecting evidence to determine how best to address both prescribing and product regulation issues.

This is a complex matter spanning regulation of product, workforce, technology, organisations and clinical safety. The department has met with government agencies involved in these issues, including state and territory health departments, to discuss key concerns and to provide me with advice on possible next steps.

The three key issues that have been raised are:

1. whether there is appropriate regulatory oversight of unapproved medicinal cannabis products being accessed via the Special Access and Authorised Prescriber Schemes in Australia
2. the safety risks associated with unapproved medicinal cannabis products, particularly those products containing THC, noting there are large numbers of Australians accessing and using these products
3. the growing number of 'product-specific' telehealth and digital services prescribing unapproved medicinal cannabis, or other medicines, through vertically integrated direct-to-consumer business models.

A public consultation will be published by the TGA on 11 August 2025 to gather stakeholder input that will help inform future changes to regulatory controls to ensure the safety and quality of medicinal cannabis products supplied in Australia. As the regulator of therapeutic goods, the TGA will be consulting on matters relevant to issues 1 and 2 only.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Mark Butler

11 / 08 / 2025