



THE MEDICO-LEGAL
SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Progress with the introduction of medicinal cannabis to Victorian patients: a challenge for evidence and clinical care

will be presented by **Professor James Angus AO**

A General Meeting of the Society will be held on Saturday 14th October 2017

Melbourne Club, 36 Collins Street, Melbourne

Drinks served 6.30 pm - Presentation 7.00 pm followed by Dinner

Dress: Black tie preferred

Professor Angus is Honorary Professorial Fellow and Professor Emeritus of the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at the University of Melbourne, and was previously Dean of that Faculty. His qualifications include BSc (Hons) in Pharmacology and PhD from the University of Sydney. He is the recipient of recognitions for his contributions to academia and professional organisations. He has held positions with many esteemed medical research establishments, and is the current Chair of the Australian Advisory Council on Medicinal Use of Cannabis.

Victorian Parliament legislated for cannabis cultivation, manufacture and supply in 2016. The intention was for a Victorian scheme exempted from existing Commonwealth drug regulation frameworks. Commonwealth legislation followed, with control over domestic cultivation and manufacture. Commonwealth policy regulates cannabis within the existing drugs regulation frameworks, treating it as an unapproved medicine. Concurrently, the Commonwealth allowed imports of high quality products. Cannabis products were then down-scheduled from 'prohibited substances' to 'controlled substances' or 'prescription medicine'. These changes allow legal prescription of imported cannabis products.

Development of Victorian product is progressing, with several cultivator licenses and manufacturing licenses issued to Victorian producers. The Victorian access scheme currently does not cover imported products. Victorians are accessing imported medicinal cannabis products via Commonwealth pathways. While these are mostly children with severe intractable epilepsy, permissions have been granted for patients with other conditions. Although there are no legislative barriers for specific patients to access medicinal cannabis, clinicians are reluctant to prescribe unfamiliar product, with limited evidence of efficacy. Even if products are prescribed, these are often unaffordable.

The future of medicinal cannabis depends on the safety, quality and evidence that may lead to registration. Challenges are to educate, communicate and foster best research practice, and to address affordability.

Members may bring guests who need not be legal or medical practitioners.

Acceptances close Monday 9th October - No acceptances or refunds will be available after this date.

Members and their guests are reminded of dress requirements. Mobile telephones may not be used inside Melbourne Club. Urgent calls may be made to the Club (9650 4941) and a message will be conveyed.

The Committee reminds Members that the Main Dining room is to be vacated by 11.30 pm.

Host Members: Mr Darren Bracken and Dr Glenn Howlett

Mr Ian Rose, Hon. Legal Secretary
Tel: (03) 9645 1597 or 0419 551 362

Dr Raphael Kuhn, Hon. Medical Secretary
Tel: 0419 399 719