

Media release: 28th January 2020

FreshLeaf Analytics flags potential watershed move to allow over-the-counter CBD in Australia

FreshLeaf Analytics, a division of Southern Cannabis Holdings (SCH), is excited to note a key revelation from the Australian Senate Inquiry into the current barriers to patient access to medicinal cannabis that points to a possible introduction of over-the-counter CBD later this year.

Such a move would constitute a watershed moment in Australia's medical cannabis framework, with far-reaching implications for patients and the medicinal cannabis industry.

In a detailed submission from the Commonwealth Department of Health (DoH) to the Inquiry, it is revealed that the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is currently undertaking a safety review of CBD at lower doses, which could possibly result in the relaxation of the scheduling status of low-dose CBD in 2020 to over-the-counter.

The submission notes that such a consideration hinges on the outcome of studies, and that there are only limited published studies.

However, **Rhys Cohen, Principal Consultant of FreshLeaf** commented: "If the only thing making the TGA hesitate about allowing low-dose (15-100mg/day by their definition) CBD products to be made available OTC is safety, it doesn't seem like they'll have much of a problem. The effects of low-dose CBD may be negligible for many patients, but it's a pretty benign drug and is already widely available online and in retail outlets across North America and Europe".

Dr Mark Hardy, Addiction Specialist and CA Clinics medical advisory board member added: "While the CBD products the DoH is referring to are likely to be fairly benign, patients who are seeking treatment for conditions that may benefit from medicinal cannabis may require higher dosages or other cannabinoids such as THC and should therefore consult their GP before taking these products, even in small amounts"

Rhys Cohen is available for comment and interview by phone on 0449 679 095

Please join Rhys Cohen for further comment and Q&A in a webinar on Thursday 30th January at 11AM:
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6526688232865153036>

About FreshLeafAnalytics

FreshLeaf Analytics, part of the Southern Cannabis Holdings group, is Australia's leading source of data and information about the medicinal cannabis industry. FreshLeaf provides strategic consulting services to industry and government clients. For more information: info@freshleaf.com or info@freshleafanalytics.com.au (+61) 2 8203 8741 @FreshLeafA

About Southern Cannabis Holdings: SCH specializes in building and operating cannabis businesses in markets where cannabis is regulated as a pharmaceutical product. SCH companies include **CA Clinics**, **Applied Cannabis Research** and **FreshLeafAnalytics**. To find out more about SCH, please visit www.southerncannabisholdings.com.au
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