

A statement from Australian Natural Therapeutics Group (ANTG)

We take seriously the concerns raised in a joint letter sent to the NSW Health Minister, the Hon. Ryan Park MP, by the NSW branches of the Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP), the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA), and the Australian Medical Association (AMA).

The letter, covered in the media today, outlines significant concerns regarding the prescribing and dispensing of medicinal cannabis in New South Wales.

ANTG does not, and has never, supported poor or irresponsible prescribing practices. However, we must not let fear campaigns and headline-driven policy dominate the conversation. ANTG's ethos has been research-driven from inception. We remain committed to building the evidence base through partnerships with leading scientists. We support research-led, evidence-driven reform.

If governments are serious about improving safety, they must act on what has already been recommended. In 2019, a Senate inquiry into medicinal cannabis identified prescriber education as a critical gap in the system¹.

Recommendations include accredited training for doctors, cannabis modules in medical curricula, and better resources for both prescribers and patients. These recommendations remain largely unfulfilled.

Governments are placing an unfair burden on health professionals, demanding safer prescribing and stronger evidence without providing the accredited training or the support patients deserve. Improving safety is a shared responsibility, but regulators must also recognise the persistent barriers patients face.

In most states, punitive driving laws still punish people for following legal treatment. At the same time, an over-reliance on imported products has shifted the system away from its original goal: a robust, locally cultivated and manufactured medicinal cannabis framework². This slow drift from policy intent undermines both trust and safety.

Supporting Australian cultivation and embedding stronger prescriber education are critical pillars of a patient-first approach and will do far more to protect people than blunt THC limits or headline-driven campaigns. These narrow measures fail to address the genuine needs of people with chronic conditions, where higher-THC products may be clinically appropriate. Wraparound supports, including clinical guidance, patient education, and safe-driving reform, must be considered as part of a holistic, harm-reduction framework. Anything less risks further entrenching inequity and confusion in an already complex system.

"ANTG has invested significant time, energy and resources into research because it's the foundation of safe prescribing. It's time for governments to step up, by backing research, investing in prescriber education, and ensuring regulation enables the science patients and doctors need." said ANTG's CEO Matt Cantelo.

The call for higher standards is correct, but the way forward is not through fear or stigma. It is through proportionate, evidence-based regulation that strengthens prescriber guidance, supports patients, promotes harm reduction and builds trust in an industry that has the potential to deliver world-leading science right here in Australia.

About Australian Natural Therapeutics Group (ANTG)

Headquartered in Byron Bay, Australian Natural Therapeutics Group (ANTG) is a vertically integrated medicinal cannabis company with operations across cultivation, GMP manufacturing, research, and international distribution. Australia's leading medicinal cannabis exporter, ANTG delivers high-quality, evidence-informed cannabinoid medicines to patients and markets worldwide.

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¹ [2019 Senate recommendations](#)

² [ABC report medicinal cannabis exports January, 2018](#)