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Australia legislates for 100% GMO Biotech Cannabis not Marijuana

by Loren Wiener

13.40sc

on April 06, 2016

A recent [Survey by Roy Morgan Research](#) shows 91% of Australians are supportive of medical Cannabis.



However, what most people do not know is that the Cannabis Australia is allowing to be imported for the first time includes GMO Cannabis. GMO or Genetically Modified Organism Cannabis has been around since 2011 due to breakthroughs in

research and Biotechnology by Ethan Russo and GW UK helping in the process. In 2014 even newer GMO Cannabis strains has been introduced.

In early April 2016 as we speak, an Australian delegation is traveling to Asia to look at GMO Cannabis with no THC, and in mid-2016 brings the who's who of the GMO Biotech Cannabis community to NSW for a conference. There is a real danger that GMO will take over as the dominant medical Cannabis seed stock.

What is Wrong with GMO Cannabis? - Too early to tell, and that is the problem. The medicine people have been using and having success with is not even being offered in Australia for those that need it most. The GMO Biotech Cannabis has seen deaths (Epidiolex) in trials that have 'passed' and other GMO (like Sativex) have failed trials and tests. In Fairness it would be wrong to say with Cannabis with over 100 cannabinoids including CBD and THC, and totaling over 483 other compounds GMO might hold many wonders for medicine. Outside of Australia GMO is being used, tested or trialed but not instead of real Cannabis or real Cannabis products. This is where Australia is differentiating.

So What is Cannabis Now? – This hit home about a year ago on a visit to large grow in California USA, and to Denver, where I was discussing the issue people had in Australia with calling weed, 'Marijuana' "so we tend to call it Cannabis as it is the genus name anyhow (sort of)". The large grower with an acre of plants asked the question. What is Cannabis exactly? This was no prank, they had heard the word, but were confused over it. As silly as that seems this is also one of the largest issues hiding the GMO in Australia in 2016, and most are not even aware of it yet, but they will be. Currently, there is a massive lack of clarity on what Cannabis is with the government choosing not to be transparent over this and in 2016 they have made this worse in new Federal and State laws and Bills. I personally got the question asked and answered in the Senate in Victoria with a new more detailed, and still foggy definition.

GMO Biotech Cannabis Vs Real Cannabis (Marijuana)

Even in a recent (30 March 2016) survey from the Australian Department of Health

(DOH) on Cannabis usage via the NCPIC, it offers 3 distinct definitions of their own for Cannabis that HAS not been used in bills or recent law changes. They are;

1. Non-medical Cannabis: - Marijuana/Cannabis defined as being greater than 3% THC
2. Cannabis for medical purposes:- is the same Cannabis/Marijuana but used for Medicinal Purposes
3. Medicinal Cannabis: - Pharmaceutical Cannabis products in a form other than flower/plant.

Unfortunately, this leaves another 2 Cannabis terms not properly defined, yet covered off in the same survey.

GMO Cannabis – Cannabis made from genetically modified seed science and used by the likes of GW UK, some call this synthetic Cannabis mostly from seeds by Hortapharm BV in the Netherlands, and the preferred supplier per the Australian Government and is legal in Australia when provided by an authorized supplier in a non-flower form.

Industrial Hemp is typically defined by the TGA as Cannabis being less than 3% THC.

What We Know So Far – Not Confused Yet?

By itself, all of this is confusing but manageable. Unfortunately, in recent, state Bills (QLD, and Victoria) and recent Federal Framework Bills, they have chosen not to define things this way and instead are reverting to older 1937 UN definitions of Cannabis combining all 5 different products per above as simply “Cannabis”. These old 1937 definitions have not been used for decades so their re-introduction is purposeful and with intent.

This makes the interpretation of new bills and legislature difficult as when words such as Medical Cannabis are then used since it combines 5 different possibilities of products all with different issues to consider. Outside of Australia some of these problems also exist where CBD / Cannabis Oil can be any of the 5 items. In recent legislation in Australia MPs discussed how Cannabis Oil helped this person or that person and was purchased illegally (this makes it Marijuana/Cannabis/CBD oil) then goes on to say medicinal Cannabis trials will take place (providing pharma like

Epidiolex, or Nabiximol).

This sort of action then starts the wheels in motion of confusion for the majority and embeds distrust for those that understand the impact of that statement. Even some self-defined Cannabis Activist messiahs, have ignored the issues, further splintering progress on law reform as they also pursue GMO Cannabis hoping the population does not see the difference until it is too late.

Recent announcements in the media that medical Cannabis is now going to be legal has stopped many from pursuing the facts any further. Whilst the media chooses to not ask questions, filing it in the it is too hard basket.

Some Facts – Due to something called the “**Entourage Effect of the Plant**” was discovered by GW UK (Dr. Ethan Russo) in 2009-2011 and the ECS (endo cannabinoid system) complimenting the discovery of THC and the discovery of the entourage effect of the body in 1968. It simply says Marijuana (that in its natural state has a ratio of 10-15:1 THC to CBD and) as a medicine acts a certain way. Any deviation from this requires some form of biotech where that medicine works differently than natural Cannabis/Marijuana (and is where GW UK Epidiolex, or Nabiximol were created out of) has different ratios of CBD and THC compared to the natural ratios discussed above.

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There's No Place like Genome - When **Canadian Dr Jonathan Page** and his team mapped the marijuana genome in 2011, using the Purple Kush strain of Cannabis they also looked at hemp with no THC. It was highlighted the chemical pathway with hemp and marijuana is different so is a different medicine, that acts differently.

Summary Links

- QLD has announced it will follow NSW in Synthetic Cannabis – <http://bit.ly/QLD-GMO-1>
- NSW Announces Trials – <http://bit.ly/Epi-trial> , <http://bit.ly/Epi-trials-2016-1>,
- Victoria announces Medical Cannabis Products - <http://bit.ly/Vic-Trials>
- Medical Hemp Association warns against CBD only medicine and laws - <http://bit.ly/CBD-med>

Lose the High, Lose 90% of the Medicine* □ – effectively THC and CBD work in harmony, as mentioned due to the entourage effect. Marijuana has naturally a 10-15:1 ratio of THC to CBD normally. This means Cannabis with potency of 15% THC (which is pretty high) might only have 1% CBD. When concentrated to oil this can be 4-5 times stronger increasing the potency to 60% THC and 1% CBD. This means High CBD and Low THC GMO Cannabis works on some conditions, some of the time. Full Spectrum Natural Cannabis and Cannabis Products works on those same conditions and many more.

* The Biotechnology of Cannabis (2nd edition) Sam Zwenger PhD – Extreme Publications inc New York – 2014.

By **Loren Wiener**, writer and commentator on Medicinal Marijuana and related issues. Producer of **This Week in Weed TV**.

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Loren Wiener
commented 3 days ago

Thanks Troy for your comment -

- The layers of GWPharma (GW) are as interesting as much as they are scary. You raise some good points but take a bit of explaining to address. GW patents are what it is all about to secure their niche. Their niche was to capitalize on the good medicine of Cannabis but to sell it needed to reduce or remove the high and some other wise reduce exactly duplicating Cannabis. To address that you have to go back a bit

troy kingman

commented 5 days ago

i wonder if there could be an alternative motive behind creating a GMO biotech cannabis besides 'lowering thc levels'. i got this off the united states patent & trademark office. 'A plant patent is granted by the Government to an inventor (or the inventor's heirs or assigns) who has invented or discovered and asexually reproduced a distinct and new variety of plant, other than a tuber propagated plant or a plant found in an uncultivated state'. Aug 14, 2014. since they've altered the original genome of a specific plant & created their own GMO cannabis they will be able to patent it granting them intellectual property to that specific seed/plant. &

Corz Illa

commented 29 days ago

Thats why you grow your own.

Dean Lewis

commented 29 days ago

Tom john, thats all good except if you don't have an android or apple phone.

Tim Koelewyn

commented 1 month ago

Just another case of big Pharma getting hold of a brilliant medicine possibly the best and completely stuffs up its potential by changing the THC-CBD mix. By changing it from a natural medicine to a GMO medicine they can patent the product and create a massive profit. Big Pharma understand that Natural Medical Cannabis is a massive threat to their monopoly with their drugs on disease and as usual through their Lobbyists always manage to get laws passed for their benefit and profit. I

firmly believe that supply of natural non GMO backyard medical cannabis will flourish as a result of this legislation. How ignorant is our government

Nick Horsley

commented 2 months ago

Cannabis is an asexual plant. This is why males and females experience the high and medicinal relief. Removing either the THC or CBD from the mixture could be comparable to removing the male or female from a relationship.

Ryder Management Inc

commented 2 months ago

GW UK (a.k.a. GW Pharmaceuticals) is a known British biopharmaceutical company. A biopharmaceutical refers to drugs produced using biotechnology. Biotechnology is a genetically engineered process which differs from extracting plant based chemicals. GW Pharma's synthetic cannabinoid based drugs are GE. It should also be noted that the number of drugs of biotechnological origin has increased exponentially in recent years.

Loren Wiener

commented 2 months ago

Dear Mr Wood,

Thank you for taking the time to comment.

I wrote the article and I note you live in my old neck of the woods, for I grew up in Manchester worked in Rochdale, and covered that whole part of the world, to Leeds etc. for a while, before moving to California, then here it paradise or as some call it 'Australia'. I do not miss the English weather but some of the food I do.

Ben Wood

commented 2 months ago

You appear to be confusing selectively bred cannabis with GMO cannabis. Sativex is not produced with GMO cannabis and I have yet to see any evidence that GW pharma or Hortapharm have produced any GM products or seeds.

Lilly Scott

commented 2 months ago

leave it alone let it grow naturally you don't have the sick and cancer ridden peoples best interest at heart, we are not your test tubes changes are coming

Lilly Scott

commented 2 months ago

Dr Swanson: GMOs Cause Increase in Chronic Diseases, Infertility and Birth Defects

<http://sustainablepulse.com/wp-content/uploads/GMO-health.pdf>

Lilly Scott

commented 2 months ago

10 Scientific Studies Proving GMOs Can Be Harmful To Human Health Over the past few years, a number of countries have completely banned GMOs and the pesticides that go along with them, and they are doing so for a reason. The latest country to consider a complete ban is Russia after top government scientists recommended at least a 10 year ban. If anybody ever tells you that we know with one hundred percent certainty that GMOs are totally safe to eat, they haven't done their research. There is no reason GM foods should be approved safe for consumption, we just don't know enough about them. We could easily feed the planet through organic. GMO

Scott Buglar

commented 2 months ago

Is our government fucking retarded? Synthetic marijuana is just stupid, it's already killed so many people, just give us normal marijuana so our people can survive through the ill-est of times, this might be the only time I say this but we need to follow America with this, it's a herb that can help so many people, but you know, the government and big pharma companies won't be able to make much profit if that happens, I believe this survey if falsely done, many people would disagree with synthetic marijuana and would rather go with REAL marijuana.

Dean Lewis

commented 2 months ago

The corporate vampire squid strikes again. So disheartening

Leonard Griffiths

commented 2 months ago

When was th survey done, I've not been asked, 200+ friends & family not been asked, so where do you get th 91% of th Australian population from. In th day it was organic, Unadulterated, No chemical or Political Interferences. No GMO foods.

RadhaMa WhiteCrow


commented 2 months ago

We do not want you GMO engineered health damaging garbage. This is a ruse. Stop pretending that you have heard the people.

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