LUCY HASLAM
CANCER COUNCIL NSW PLANNING FOR CHANGE
RE-INTRODUCING MEDICINAL CANNABIS TO AUSTRALIA

An example of how big changes start small.....

united
IN COMPASSION

for the dignified alleviation of suffering with compassion & empathy

EVERY
ACCOMPLISHMENT
BEGINS WITH
THE DECISION
TO TRY
My motivation to evoke change..

It began with Dan’s story

- A terminal diagnosis at age 20
- A blessed family one minute to living a nightmare the next
- Three years of chemotherapy, multiple major surgeries, radiation & oncothermia
- Quality of life next to none
- As a family we reached a point of desperation and hopelessness

Desperation, love and suffering were my motivation

At the point of desperation, Dan nervously tried a cannabis joint....

Dan didn’t vomit again after chemo, he was able to enjoy food again, he no longer had to be hospitalised each time he had chemotherapy. But now he had another problem...he had to break the law to use it. We had to decide whether it was worth the risk. The answer was simple.
Being considered criminals was an additional burden we didn’t need. We decided we had to make a stand and fight for medicinal cannabis to be decriminalised.

Against the odds we began a campaign for change....

Every health minister was opposed as were the AMA and College of Physicians.

"The doctors (Hippocratic) oath, ‘to first, do no harm’ guides my conduct. I cannot let my heart rule my head. To do so would potentially compromise the health and safety of my patients.” Nicholas Talley RACP

"don’t you know that smoking gives you lung cancer” JILLIAN SKINNER NSW Health Minister

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4 The use of cannabis for medical purposes 2013
So how do you go about developing a campaign for change?

You could try the crystal ball approach? OR

“"You know what I'm looking forward to? — hindsight.""

We are just an ordinary family in an unenviable position. I know that people will judge us, but as a parent, I would like to put forward the reasons why I feel the decriminalisation of medicinal cannabis should be revisited by our state and federal government. For my family this is a matter of urgency........."

We needed a strategy......

tell the truth and add a human face

www.dansstory.com.au
The initial campaign involved

- Writing a short story and posting it online
- Speaking to our local MP
- Speaking to local newspaper and radio (ABC)
- Television “The Project” Channel 10
- Launching a Change.org petition
- We decided to go for maximum impact and launch all digital and media stories together.

This proved to be an effective strategy.

We found some powerful allies
“ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH.”
- Helen Keller
Help please!

Lucy Haslam
Tamworth, Australia

JUL 12, 2014 — Hi everyone, I am looking for 9 brave souls from NSW who are using cannabis meds for serious terminal illness to share their story in an open letter to NSW MPs prior to the voting of the Bill in the Parliament. It would only be a brief outline such as this one for Dan... - Daniel Haslam 24 years. Lives NSW stage 4 bowel cancer (liver, lung, bone and lymph metastases) Uses Cannabis in a vapouriser to control nausea, vomiting and weight loss

Sussan Ley

Lucy Haslam
Tamworth, Australia

OCT 15, 2015 — I’ve got concerning news. I’ve just returned from Canberra where I met with politicians on medicinal cannabis. The Health Minister’s office unfortunately are quietly pushing for more ‘clinical trials’ instead of passing the urgent laws to legalise medicinal cannabis.

This would see sick people, like my Dan was, treated like criminals, at the mercy of black market medicine that’s unreliable and expensive.

For the first time in Australia.
Global and Australian experts
Unite in Compassion to discuss
Medicinal Cannabis.

Real people, real stories...

Come and join us to hear their knowledge and insights.
To be officially opened by New South Wales Premier Mike Baird
Inaugural Australian Medical Cannabis Symposium
November 21, 22, 2014
at TIECC, Tamworth
For more information and ticket sales
www.unitedforcompassion.com.au
Change.org helped us continually keep the pressure on the Government at critical times… until …

WE WON!!!!!!!

Decriminalise the use of medicinal cannabis for people with terminal cancer like my son.

Confirmed victory
This petition made change with 251,992 supporters!

Share on Facebook
Add a personal message (optional)

Malcolm Turnbull: Decriminalise the use of medicinal cannabis for...

Post to Facebook

Our MP has just pledged to get the NSW Parliament to debate medicinal cannabis use for the terminally ill,
Share if you’re with us. www.change.org/medicinalcannabis

Our 24 year old son has a terminal cancer diagnosis. He is receiving great benefit from using medicinal cannabis.

“A Life of its own” will be screened as a special event at Event Cinemas George Street Sydney at 7pm TONIGHT with a Q and A to follow.
Thanks for listening. ANY QUESTIONS?

www.uic.org.au