

## AUSTRALIAN PSYCHIATRISTS & TRAINEES – MEDICINAL CANNABINOIDS SURVEY

**Authors:** NATHAN I. JACOBS<sup>1</sup>, MARK MONTEBELLO<sup>1,2</sup>, LAUREN A. MONDS<sup>1,3</sup>, NICHOLAS LINTZERIS<sup>1,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*South Eastern Sydney Local Health District Drug and Alcohol Service, Sydney, Australia*

<sup>2</sup>*National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Randwick, NSW, Australia*

<sup>3</sup>*Discipline of Addiction Medicine, Central Clinical School, Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW, Australia*

Presenter's email: [nathan.jacobs@uni.sydney.edu.au](mailto:nathan.jacobs@uni.sydney.edu.au)

### **Introduction and Aims:**

Many Australian patients are requesting medicinal cannabinoids, following recent, well-publicised, legislative changes. Overseas, some doctors have become avid prescribers of medicinal cannabinoids following legalisation, but many others have been hesitant to prescribe, due to concerns about the quality of evidence available, and potential adverse effects.

We developed a brief survey to assess Australian Psychiatrists' and Psychiatry Trainees' knowledge of and concerns about medicinal cannabinoids.

### **Design and Methods:**

A brief, anonymous, 64-item, online survey was developed using REDCap software, and ran for a 10-week period, from March to May 2017. The survey was promoted to Psychiatrists and Trainees through professional Psychiatry newsletters and educational communications. Participants were asked about their knowledge of the evidence for prescribing medicinal cannabinoids for various clinical indications; their concerns about prescribing cannabinoids; and whether they'd consider prescribing if it was legal to do so.

### **Results:**

So far, 23 Psychiatrists and 30 Trainees have completed the survey. Although less than 20% of respondents were aware of the evidence for prescribing medicinal cannabinoids, 55% stated that they would consider prescribing them if legal, 17% stated that they would not prescribe them, and 28% were undecided.

### **Discussion and Conclusions:**

Preliminary results suggest that a large proportion of Australian Psychiatrists and Trainees would consider prescribing medicinal cannabinoids, if legally able to do so, but they lack knowledge of the current clinical evidence. Survey results will be used to guide the development of education programs for health professionals.

### **Disclosure of Interest Statement:**

None.