**Domain 2 – Practice-**

**Oral Presentation Abstract Submission Title:** The Endocannabinoid System: What every nurse needs to know about the body’s own endocannabinoid system. Fact vs fiction, Breaking misconceptions, conscientious objections, barriers and success with medicinal cannabis.

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**The Problem:** Although medicinal cannabis is a legally prescribed medication in Australia, access to credible, evidence-based education for practitioners remains limited. Many lack knowledge of the medicines and the endocannabinoid system itself, present in all humans and most animals, leading to stigma driven misinformation. This gap compromises patient safety, health outcomes, and quality of life.

**What did you do**? I advocated for legislative changes in Parliament and played a key role in shaping policies within the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, Queensland Nurses and Midwives, and Metro North Hospital and Health Services. I worked to break down barriers by promoting open education and continuously developing, assessing, and refining policies to support patient access and practitioner knowledge.

**Results:** Positive patient outcomes with many experiencing significant benefits, practitioners have a deeper understanding of medicinal cannabis. I have helped bridge critical gaps in education and access. I now educate within metro and regional hospital and health services, primary networks, GP clinics and community groups. I also run my own education portal and serve as educator and co steering committee member, and cofounder of ACNA and AMCA.

**Lessons**: If something is happening where it shouldn’t or isn’t happening where it should, take action to create change and improve patient outcomes. Laws should not be enacted without full oversight, including considerations for cost, consistency, and unintended consequences, such as driving laws. Regularly reviewing and addressing barriers is essential.

**References**

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