

30 March 2021

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Tēnā koe Hazel

**Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-009496**

Thank you for your email of 2 March 2021 asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *Can you please send me ACC's policy on payment for cannabis products?*
2. *I can see from the decision letter that there are technical issues that I have to address concerning: Medileaf CBD, Tilray CBD THC.*
3. *Medsafe criteria for licensing their use in NZ.*
4. *Can ACC provide any technical information that it is relying on – that relate to these matters.*

**Technical Information for Pharmaceutical Funding**

ACC policy for pharmaceutical funding requests is to consider them on a case by case basis. Clinical advisors will check that the request is from a treatment provider with prescribing rights and it is for a covered condition caused by the accident. The request must be reasonably required, facilitate treatment and meet the treatment funding guidance outlined in the Accident Compensation Act 2001 (the AC Act).

The regulated use of the medicine (as outlined on the Medsafe website) is checked and the legal supply mechanisms (as outlined in the Medicines and Misuse of Controlled Drugs Act/Regulations and Medicinal Cannabis Scheme) are also considered. If the pharmaceutical or its proposed use is not approved nor regulated by Medsafe or if it is not publicly funded by Pharmac, then scientific literature will be checked to understand the evidence of proposed clinical use.

For cannabis-based medicine, we include Pharmac (PTAC) assessments and advice for public funding. It should be noted that the ANZCA Faculty of Pain position statement does not endorse the use of cannabis-based medicine for chronic pain management.

The context of the client and their injury and expected recovery is also considered alongside their compliance and outcomes from the usual means of treatment in New Zealand.

**Additional Policy and Technical information**

Please find attached the ACC policy documents that relate to the funding of cannabis-based medicine:

- *Access Cannabis-Based Medicine and Product Funding Requests*
- *Cannabis, ketamine and other illegal drugs Policy*

**Notes about the documents attached**

Please note that staff named on the documents attached are contacts for internal queries, they are not staff who created or updated the policy.

*Withheld information*

We have withheld the names of some staff named on the documents to protect them from improper pressure or harassment. This decision has been made under section 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Act. In doing so, we

considered the public interest in making their names available and determined that it did not outweigh the need to withhold them.

**If you have any questions**

If you have any questions, you can email me at [GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz](mailto:GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz).

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sasha Wood', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sasha Wood

**Manager Official Information Act Services**  
Government Engagement & Support