

Medicinal Cannabis Use and Cultivation in the Australian Capital Territory following Legislative Changes (CAN-ACT) Study

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Who can take part in this study?

Individuals living in the **Australian Capital Territory** who are at least **18 years of age**, who either:

- *Currently or previously* have used cannabis for **any** reason (e.g., medicinal or recreational); or
- *Currently or previously* have **grown** cannabis at their property.

If you have never used cannabis for any reason AND have never grown cannabis, unfortunately, you are not eligible to participate in this study.

2. What does the study involve?

The study involves: (1) an online survey and (2) optional cannabis sample analysis.

The study survey takes approximately 10-minutes to complete, and will ask about you, your experiences with growing cannabis; your prior and present cannabis use for any reason; medical conditions and symptoms for which medical cannabis is being used; adverse effects; trepidations around use (e.g., legal, driving); changes in access and use since legalisation; and, preferences around future access pathways and legislative reform.

Individuals partaking in the study will have the opportunity to have a sample of their cannabis be analysed for cannabinoid and contaminant content. An independent study Courier will collect your cannabis sample which will be analysed at the University of Sydney. This is not a mandatory requirement for taking part in the study.

3. Will my participation be anonymous?

The survey will not ask for any information that could identify you (you will not be asked your name, address, or contact details) and your IP addresses will not be collected. This means there is no way to link you to the survey information that you submit. This protects your anonymity and mitigates legal risk.

Participants choosing to have their cannabis analysed will need to provide the Courier company with a pickup address, to arrange sample collection. The Courier will confidentially store the address and it will not be shared with the research team. You will not be asked your name or any identifying information. You may choose to use an address that isn't your home (e.g., work), but you will need to be there when the Courier collects the sample.

4. Can I get into trouble with the police for participating in this study?

This is very unlikely. For the study survey, no identifying information will be collected, participation is entirely anonymous. There will be no way to link you with your survey responses.

For individuals choosing to have their cannabis samples analysed, you will need to provide a pickup address to the study Courier. The research team will seek relevant approvals/authority to conduct the study from NSW Health, ACT Health, and ACT Police. In the unlikely event that the collection address you provide is summoned by police, the Courier will have to provide the address.

You may choose to use an address that isn't your residential address, but you will need to be there when the Courier arrives to collect your sample.

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5. Why are we testing for cannabinoids and what will the information be used for?

The cannabis plant contains over 100 different compounds called cannabinoids. The most well-known cannabinoid is tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) – and is mostly responsible for the intoxicating effects of cannabis (i.e. feeling “high”). Other cannabinoids in the plant are generally not intoxicating, but are of interest for their possible therapeutic effects in a range of health conditions. For example, cannabidiol (CBD) appears to have anti-anxiety and pain-relieving qualities. We will determine the quantities of a range of cannabinoids in the cannabis samples provided. Analysis of cannabis samples will take place at the University of Sydney Psychopharmacology Laboratories. Samples will undergo full spectrum cannabinoid and terpene profiling.

6. Are we testing for pesticides, moulds and toxins?

Yes. Additional profiling of pesticides, heavy metals and moulds will be undertaken by ChemCentre in Perth.

7. How much cannabis will I need to provide?

If you only provide a 0.5 g sample, we will be able to tell you the level of cannabinoids and terpenoids in your cannabis. Cannabinoids have a wide range of therapeutic properties. The two best-known and most abundant cannabinoids are tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD); however, over 100 other cannabinoids exist. Terpenoids are aromatic compounds found in many plants, also thought to hold medicinal properties. Examples include pinene, limonene, myrcene and beta-caryophyllene.

If you provide a 3 g sample, we will also tell you the levels of heavy metals (metals that can be toxic to human health) and mycotoxins (poisons produced by certain moulds (fungi), also harmful to human health).

If you provide a 6 g sample, we will also tell you the level of pesticides (chemicals that kill insects and other pests), which can also be harmful to human health.

8. How will I access the results from analyses of my cannabis sample?

You can check the progress status of your sample analysis and view results by logging on at www.can-act.com.au using your CAN-ACT User ID and CAN-ACT Password.

The results of the analysis of all of the cannabis products we collect will also be published in *aggregate* form in a scientific journal, upon study completion. This information may be of interest for you.

9. Who is the study Courier? When and how can I contact them?

The Courier company is called World Courier.

You can only phone them between 8am and 5pm Monday-Wednesday. For next day collection, phone before 3pm.

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10. When can the Courier collect my sample?

World Courier can collect your sample between 8am and 5pm Monday-Friday.

11. Who can I contact if I have questions about sample collection?

If you have any questions, please phone the CAN-ACT team on [insert telephone number].

Please do not tell the courier your CAN-ACT User ID number, or your name, or your phone number. This is to protect your anonymity.

12. Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I've started?

Participating in this study is completely voluntary, you can withdraw at any time. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at the University of Sydney.

13. Will I be reimbursed for my time?

No. Participants will not be reimbursed for participating in the study.