



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Will my participation be anonymous?

The study has been designed carefully to maintain your anonymity.

The survey does **not** collect any information that could identify you (you will not be asked your name, address, or contact details) and your **IP address 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 study Courier with a pickup address for sample collection. It is also recommended that you provide a telephone number. The study courier will **not** ask for your name or any other identifying information.

After the study courier collects your sample, they **will destroy your collection address and telephone number**. This means there will only be a small window of time in which this information is known by the courier.

Also, you can use an address that isn't your home (e.g., work), but you will need to be there when the Courier collects the sample.

2. How can I be sure the courier will destroy my collection address and telephone number after pickup?

The study Courier is contractually bound to destroy the address and telephone number after your sample has been collected.

The study Courier has worked with world-renowned clinical trial logistics companies for over ten years and is well-respected in the industry for successful implementation of confidential patient services.

Additionally, the study courier staff underwent National Police Checks as part of the process to obtain government approval to conduct this study.

3. It's illegal to share cannabis in the ACT, how has the government approved the study?

The ACT Government (ACT Health) has provided a license which authorises CAN-ACT participants to share their cannabis samples with the designed study courier and, in turn, the CAN-ACT research team at the Lambert Initiative, University of Sydney.

It took nearly one year for this license to be issued as a new license type had to be created to ensure legal protection of participants. The ACT Health license number is 0031/21 (File Number: 2L/OO9O3L). You can contact ACT Health (Pharmaceutical Services) on 02 5124 9700 or email hps@act.gov.au if you have any questions.



We also sought permission from NSW Health to collect and transport samples to the Lambert Initiative laboratory in Sydney (Permit number/s: A-202208-209/A-202201-6). If you seek any more information, you can contact them on (02) 9391 9944 or email moh-pharmaceuticalservices@health.nsw.gov.au.

ACT Police indicated that the ACT Health and NSW Health permissions mean it is not illegal for participants to handover cannabis to the CAN-ACT study courier. This means that it is not a policing matter. No license or permissions were required from police.

We also consulted with the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, who informed us that under Federal law it is not illegal to share cannabis for the purpose of research.

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

This is very unlikely. As the ACT Government has authorised participants to share cannabis for the CAN-ACT study, this is not a policing matter (i.e., no illegal activity is occurring).

For the study survey, no identifying information will be collected (participation is entirely anonymous).

For individuals choosing to have their cannabis samples analysed, we have designed the process so that there is no way to link your survey responses or your sample with your collection address (which will be destroyed after the courier collects your sample).

5. 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.

6. 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 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.

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

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

8. 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

9. 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.

10. How can I contact the study courier?

You will get instructions to arrange sample collection after you have completed the CAN-ACT survey.

11. When can the Courier collect my sample?

The courier can collect your sample between 8am and 5pm Monday-Thursday.

You can the phone courier phone them between 8am and 5pm Monday-Friday. For next day collection, phone before 2pm. Phone Friday for a Monday collection.

12. How can I submit a second cannabis sample from a different plant?



To submit a second cannabis sample, from a different plant, please log in using your CAN-ACT User ID and Password. You can complete another short sub-questionnaire and then you will be provided with instructions to schedule sample collection with the Study Courier. If you have any questions, you can phone the CAN-ACT team on +61481475730.

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

If you have any questions, please phone the CAN-ACT team on +61481475730

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

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. Will I be reimbursed for my time?

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