

POSITION STATEMENT

Medicinal Cannabis

There is a long history of traditional evidence of cannabis use as a medicine over the last 4000 years by numerous cultures. NICM Health Research Institute (NICM) supports further research into the quality, safety and therapeutic efficacy of cannabis and cannabinoid medicines. NICM recognises the emerging evidence base and remaining questions around its use in various clinical conditions such as chronic pain, multiple sclerosis, intractable epilepsy, palliative care and chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting.

In 2016, the Australian Federal Government passed the *Narcotic Drugs Amendment Bill*, which amended the *Narcotic Drugs Act of 1967* to allow cannabis cultivation for scientific and medical purposes. NICM's cannabis research strictly adheres to these regulatory requirements and those enforced by the NSW Department of Health.

NICM advocates for the implementation of medicinal cannabis education for health professionals to increase their capability to inform patients on the risks and benefits associated with utilising cannabis as a medicine.