

Media Release

Medicinal Cannabis – Legal, Regulated and Safe ... is Best.

All Australian States and Territories, and New Zealand allow for the *legal* use of medicinal cannabis, however personal use is still *illegal* across all States, and in New Zealand.

The sole exception is Canberra, or the Australian Capital Territory where personal use and growing of cannabis was decriminalised in 2020, for personal possession, use and home cultivation. You need to be 18+ years of age and may possess up to up to 50 grams of dried or 150 grams of fresh cannabis, 2 plants per person or a maximum of 4 plants per household, and use is limited to within your home.

It is still illegal in the ACT to:

- smoke cannabis in a public place
- expose a child to cannabis smoke
- store it where a child may have access
- sell or share cannabis
- grow any plants hydroponically
- grow plants where they might be accessed by the public, or
- drive with any cannabis in your system

In the state of Victoria, possession – without a valid doctor’s prescription – is considered an offence. Any amount over 250 grams or 10 plants is considered a trafficable offence. Penalties can be severe: 100+ plants or 25+ kilograms can attract a maximum 25-years imprisonment, 1000+ plants or 250+ kilograms can incur a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

Fortunately, a Victoria Police initiative, the *Cannabis Cautioning Program*, means police will issue a cautioning notice to persons over 17 years of age, for possession of small quantities less than 50 grams.

New South Wales Police also operate a similar *Cannabis Cautioning Scheme* for quantities less than 15 grams. Penalties are less severe in this state as well. A *Trafficable* quantity is defined as 300+ grams and can attract a prison sentence of up to 2 years and/or a fine of \$11,000. An *Indictable* quantity is defined as 1+ kilograms or 50 plants and can attract a prison sentence up to 15 years and/or a fine of \$220,000.

“It’s a good thing that cannabis for medicinal use is available to patients on doctor’s prescription,” said Tom Varga, CEO of Australia’s largest B2B grower and supplier of medicinal cannabis.

“Patients that need help, deserve to get that help,” he said. “Biortica’s position has always been: legal, regulated and safe is far better than illegal, unregulated and potentially unsafe.”

“We’ve now reported on the legal status of cannabis globally, including the EU, Middle East, Asia, South America and all 50 US states. This report on Australia and Zealand completes the picture. All this information is available to share and can be sourced from our company website www.biortica.com” he said, “but as always, for medical conditions, make sure you consult your doctor first.”

“We can always do better,” said Tom, “uniform national legislation and regulation for both medicinal and personal use, together with control of currently unregulated imports would be the gold standard.”

“Did I mention a National Cannabis Regulatory Steering Committee?” he quipped.

AUS/NZ CURRENT STATE OF CANNABIS LEGISLATION

STATE	USE	
	MEDICINAL	PERSONAL
New South Wales	✓	X
Queensland	✓	X
Victoria	✓	X
South Australia	✓	X
Northern Territory	✓	X
Western Australia	✓	X
Tasmania	✓	X
ACT	✓	Decriminalised
New Zealand	✓	X

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Biortica Agrimed makes every reasonable effort to ensure accuracy of information supplied. Biortica does not warrant the accuracy of this information as regulations are changing and evolving. The above tabulation is the result of desk-top research. Where possible the information has been sourced from government and/or industry leading websites. The information should not be relied upon for investment purposes.

Biortica Agrimed Ltd

Award winning, Biortica Agrimed Ltd is Australia’s largest fully vertically integrated commercial grower of medicinal plants. Our B2B operations are seamlessly integrated from plant genetics through to supply of medicinal plants in commercial quantities. We employ glasshouse-based horticulture, to both, protect our valuable medicinal crops, and equally to minimise our environmental impact, thereby protecting the planet. Our goal is to significantly improve human health outcomes by supplying high quality agricultural medicinal plants, at scale, to uniform high quality standards year-round.

<http://www.biortica.com/>

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