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MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Day of HEMP - Adelaide Thursday 12th Sept. Let Doctors Decide, Not Politicians!

**HEMP SA (Help End Marijuana Prohibition) are staging a Rally at Victoria Sq at 1pm on Thursday 12th September, 1996.
The rally is in support of the Medical and Therapeutic applications of Cannabis.**

The use of Medical Marijuana is well documented and legal in 34 US States, with current political moves likely to expand access in the near future.

"The SA Legislative Council Select Committee has unanimously recommended changes to SA laws to allow clinical trials of medical marijuana for people with conditions like cancer, glaucoma, MS, epilepsy, asthma, period pain, anorexia, HIV/AIDS, stress or depression " said Jamnes Danenberg, Co-convenor of HEMP SA.

"The SA Government's continuing callous disregard for patients with conditions that cannabis can help or alleviate, is a cruel and inhumane tragedy" he said.

Both the **National Cannabis Taskforces' Health & Psychological Consequences of Cannabis** and the **SA Legislative Council Select Committee's Report** have recommended changes to the laws to allow medical and therapeutic use of Cannabis to commence.

"Its time we let doctors decide what's best for patients, not politicians"
Jamnes said.

Democrat MLC Mike Elliott, will shortly put a bill before the SA Parliament which would allow sick people the right to use a medicine "safer than many current pharmaceuticals" and one that offers real relief to many sufferers of debilitating conditions. A representative from Mr Elliott's office will be speaking at the rally, along with testimonials from patients and health professionals who have personally been involved in the issues.

The National Day of HEMP ties in with a case of Chris Wright, a poet and hemp activist who has suffered serious injuries in a car accident some years ago. Mr Wright has applied to the Health Commission for permission to use Cannabis (under Section 55 of the Controlled Substances Act) and is currently awaiting a reply from the Minister. Mr Wright is due to face court that afternoon (12/9) at 2pm in the Magistrates court just next door to Victoria Sq. He will be seeking an adjournment until his application is considered. Dr Armitage is yet to inform Mr Wright of his decision, but is "considering the case".

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Help End Mariiuaana Prohibition