



Minister for Health and Aged Care  
Minister for Sport  
**THE HON SUSSAN LEY MP**

## **Media Release**

23 December 2016

### **Australian Advisory Council on the Medicinal Use of Cannabis**

Dr Andrew Southcott will chair the new Australian Advisory Council on the Medicinal Use of Cannabis.

The Minister for Health and Aged Care, Sussan Ley, said that the new Australian Advisory Council on the Medicinal Use of Cannabis is a vital component of the Government's Medicinal Cannabis Scheme.

"I'm pleased that Dr Southcott has agreed to chair the Council and bring his expertise as a doctor to this important Australian Government initiative for patients and their doctors to have access to a safe, legal and reliable supply of medicinal cannabis products for the management of painful and chronic conditions," she said.

"This new Council will look at all aspects of patient healthcare, cannabis therapies, related research, palliative care and patient advocacy.

"The formation of the Council follows on from the introduction of the new medicinal cannabis legislation in early 2016 and the commencement of the Medicinal Cannabis Scheme from October this year."

The Medicinal Cannabis Scheme is the result of extensive consultation between the Federal Government and State and Territory authorities in the development of regulations and security protocols for the cultivation, production and manufacture of medicinal cannabis.

Dr Andrew Southcott is a medical practitioner and a former Member of Parliament who held the positions of Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Wellbeing and Regional Health Services and Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Primary Healthcare.

The Council is expected to sit in February of 2017 for its initial meeting and will be in place for two years.

More information about the Australian Advisory Council on the Medicinal Use of Cannabis and its membership will be available shortly on the [Office of Drug Control website](#).

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