



Commonwealth Fact Sheet



MEDICINAL CANNABIS

If your project involves the cultivation, production or manufacture of cannabis for medicinal and related research purposes you must obtain a medicinal cannabis licence.

1. What approvals do I need?

The cultivation, production and manufacture of medicinal cannabis in Australia is subject to stringent control under the [Narcotics Drugs Act 1967](#) (Cth) (Narcotic Drugs Act).

There are three types of licences under the Narcotic Drugs Act that relate to medicinal cannabis:

- medicinal cannabis licence authorising cultivation or production or both
- cannabis research licence authorising similar process for research purposes
- manufacturing licence authorising the manufacture of a drug or product.

Factors that are considered in deciding whether a licence should be granted include whether: the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a licence, its business associates are fit and proper to be associated with the holder of a licence, and the suitability of the proposed location, facilities and security, amongst other things. Before any activity under a licence can commence, the licensee will need to apply for and be granted a permit, which will set out the types and amount of cannabis that can be grown and/or produced or manufactured and the types and quantities of medicinal cannabis products that can be manufactured under the licence.

2. Who provides approvals?

The [Office of Drug Control](#) (ODC) provides the three types of licences that relate to the cultivation, production

and manufacture of medicinal cannabis. Information on applications and guidance is located on the ODC website [here](#).

The [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) (TGA) is responsible for ensuring that the therapeutic goods available for supply in Australia are safe and fit for their intended purpose. The TGA administers the [Therapeutic Goods Act 1989](#) (Cth) (the Act), which establishes the regulatory framework for all medicines in Australia. Information and guidance materials located on the TGA [here](#).

State/Territory governments may also require approvals.

3. How do I get Australian Government approval?

Application forms and guidance material are provided on the ODC website [here](#).

4. More information

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For more information on the cultivation of cannabis for medicinal and related research purposes please go to the [Office of Drug Control](#).

Major Projects Facilitation Agency

If you would like assistance to identify the regulatory obligations for your project, please visit our [Online Tool](#) or contact us:

Email: mpfa@industry.gov.au