



**Mike Baird**  
Premier of NSW  
Minister for Western Sydney

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Sunday, 31 July 2016

### **INCREASING ACCESS TO CANNABIS-BASED MEDICINE**

Doctors in NSW will now be able to apply to prescribe a broader range of cannabis-based medicines as a result of NSW Government regulatory changes.

Premier Mike Baird said the move means cannabis-based medicines that were previously only able to be used in clinical trials in NSW can now be considered by doctors for patients who have exhausted standard treatment options.

“People who are seriously ill should be able to access these medicines if they are the most appropriate next step in their treatment,” Mr Baird said.

“This change increases the options available for doctors as it means a broader range of cannabis-based medicines can be prescribed - while we continue our evidence-based research looking further into the role medicinal cannabis can play.”

Minister for Medical Research Pru Goward said that NSW was regulating cannabis-based medicines in the same way as any other emerging medicine.

“Patients wishing to investigate the use of cannabis-based medicines will need to talk with their doctor about suitability,” Ms Goward said.

“There is still a lot to learn about safety and efficacy for different patient conditions and groups which is why we are investing \$21 million to further world leading evidence-based research into the safe and effective use of cannabis-based medicines.”

The regulatory changes will take effect tomorrow. Applications from prescribing doctors will be assessed by the Commonwealth Therapeutic Goods Administration, and by a committee of medical experts on behalf of NSW Health.

For further information about the NSW Government’s medicinal cannabis initiatives visit [www.health.nsw.gov.au/cannabis](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/cannabis) or call 1800 217 257.