



# COMPASS

*AMCA's Compassionate Access Program*

**Streamlined Support for Patients in Need**



The **COMPASS Program** by the **Australian Medical Cannabis Association** aims to support patients encountering challenges in accessing medicinal cannabis due to clinical or financial obstacles.



# Why the COMPASS Program?

## **Current Compassionate Access Schemes**

Managed by individual brands; inconsistent patient support and varying discounts.

## **Current Challenge for Patients**

Inconsistent outcomes, partial assistance, restricted durations, and varying discount rates.

## **Current Engagement from Medicinal Cannabis Brands**

Many brands lack resources to efficiently handle compassionate initiatives.



# The Need for a Centralised Scheme

## **Recognition of Need**

AMCA identified the necessity for a unified compassionate access scheme to simplify the process for patients and enable industry involvement.

## **Simplified Access**

Centralised system streamlines access, ensuring efficiency and consistent support for patients.

## **Guided by Leading Associations**

Led by AMCA with support from Cannabis Clinicians Australia (CCA), the Australian Cannabis Nurses Association (ACNA), the Australian Cannabis Pharmacists Association (ACPA)



# Original Plan & Government Support

## **Initial Concept**

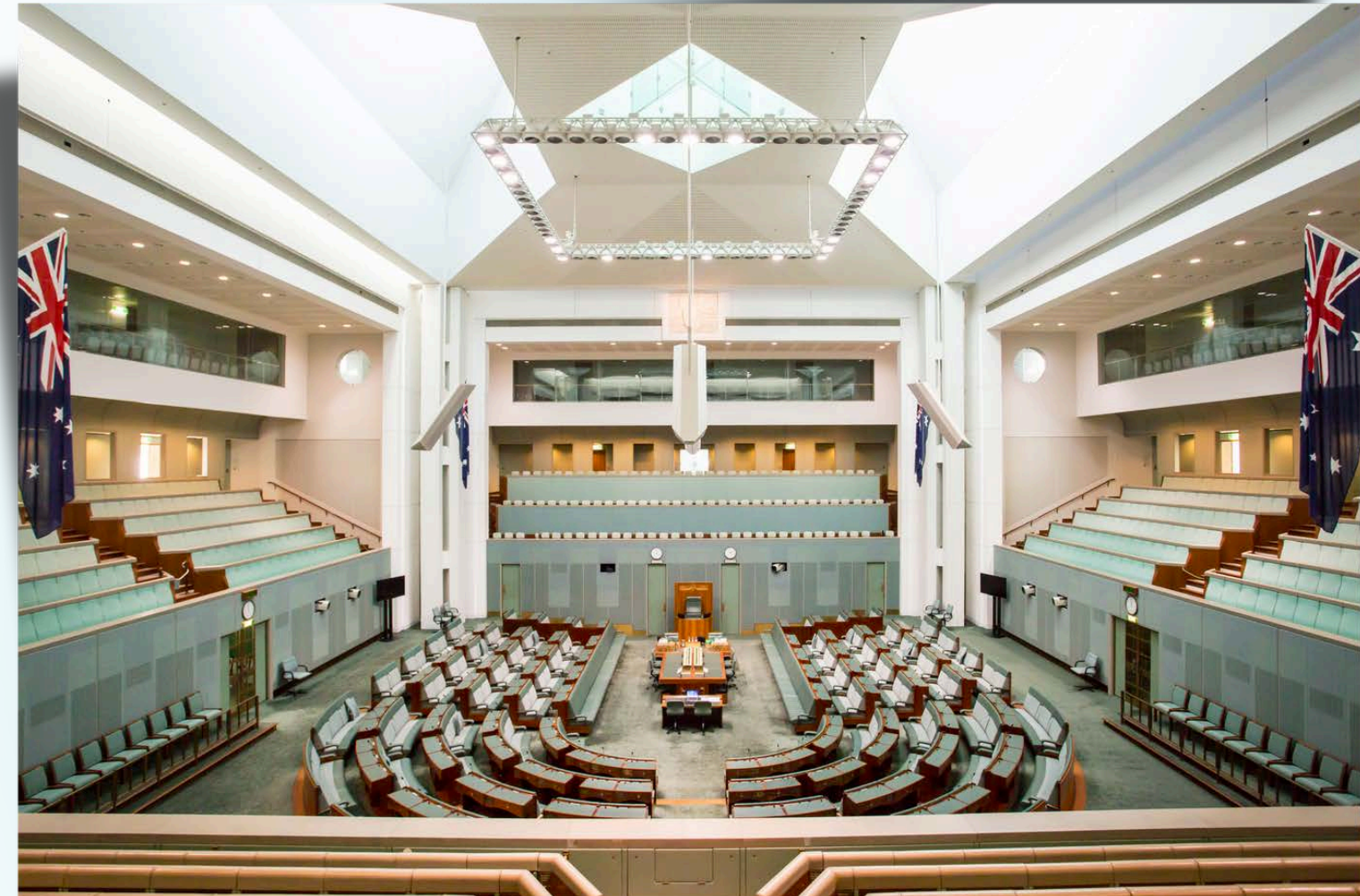
AMCA envisioned the COMPASS program to be a government-funded administration.

## **Initial Support**

AMCA received interest and support from former Health Minister Greg Hunt.

## **Funding Rejection**

Post transition to the new Health Minister Mark Butler, the proposal and funding request was declined in mid-2024.





# For the Community. By the Community.

## **Industry Involvement**

Following the decline of government funding, Cannabis Warehouse explored the option of helping and managing the COMPASS program for AMCA.

## **Existing Infrastructure**

As a distributor, Cannabis Warehouse already had the necessary infrastructure and processes in place due to managing the compassionate access programs of different brands.

## **Pilot Program Collaboration**

A framework and procedure were established to launch a pilot program in partnership with Dispense Direct, Cannabis Clinicians Australia, and AMCA.





# How COMPASS Works

## **Aim of COMPASS:**

Establish a centralised and user-friendly compassionate access program for both patients and practitioners.

## **Comprehensive Coverage:**

Centralise multiple products from a range of suppliers and offer patients comprehensive treatment through the program for at least six months.

## **Practitioner-Driven Process:**

Practitioners are accountable for accepting and implementing decisions, upholding ethical governance, and faithfully representing patients.



## Phase One Goal

Help 1000 in-need and qualified patients by 30th June  
2025



# Current Participating Brands

**HUMACOLOGY**<sup>®</sup>  
We Want to Make You Better.<sup>®</sup>

Alma

Motherplant<sup>™</sup>  
Nature knows the way.

 AURA therapeutics

bod 

**CHEMOVAR**   
AROMATICALLY CATEGORISED THERAPEUTICS

  
**MEDIQUEST**  
AUSTRALIA

 **MEDIBIS**

 **medibox**  
PHARMA

 AMCA

# Stakeholders Involved in COMPASS



## Oversight of the Program

The COMPASS program is supervised by AMCA to ensure ethical governance and appropriate management.



## Distribution & Storage

The distribution, logistics, and infrastructure of COMPASS and its medications are supervised and handled by Cannabis Warehouse Australia.



## Practitioner Approval

The oversight of practitioners and the approval process for submitted cases is managed by Cannabis Clinicians Australia (CCA) and the Australian Cannabis Nurses Association (ACNA).



## Pharmacy Partners

The program involves ACPA pharmacies as dispensing partners. The pilot involved Dispense Direct, a national direct-to-door dispensing pharmacy service, to improve efficiency and establish technological infrastructure.



# Special Thanks



Dispense  
Direct

# Compassionate Access Support Available to Patients

## The Tier System

### **Tier 1 - 100% Free:**

For the most in-need patients, full support with zero cost. All stakeholders contribute their services for free, including dispensing and courier costs.

### **Tier 2 - 100% Free + \$10 Flat Postage Fee:**

Patients highly in need but able to contribute the postage fee receive full support with only the postage fee as their cost.

### **Tier 3 - \$40 Per Unit:**

Patients pay a flat \$40 per unit for their medicines. This cost covers \$25 for the pharmacy's dispensing fee and \$15 for the distributor's courier costs.

### **Pharmacy Contribution**

Pharmacies can determine how many spots in each Tier they wish to contribute. System tracks spots taken.





## Support Timeframe

**Patients are supported in 6-month blocks with an assumption of 1 unit per month\*.**

\*If more than 1 unit per month is required, this needs to be a case by case basis and to be added to the patient summary notes area of the submission

Compassionate  
Access Support  
Available to Patients

# Patient Progress Tracking and Outcomes Data

- **Available free to Patient**
- **Research and Treatment Outcomes Data Collection**
- **Value adds back to the patient, practitioner, and brand**





# COMPASS Program Criteria



## **Clinical & Financial Hardship**

A clinical picture and financial hardship must be presented and approved by the review panel.



## **Stability on Medicinal Cannabis**

Patients must already be stable on medicinal cannabis



## **Limited Resource Program**

Patients are to be informed that limited resources and care can only be guaranteed in six-month intervals



## **Stock Expiry**

Donated stock should ideally have a shelf life of more than three months.



## **Participation**

AMCA and non-AMCA prescribers may apply on behalf of their patients and member and non-member companies can donate stock



# Pilot Program - The Process



## Step 1: Case Submission

Prescribers submit patient cases to the CCA panel through the Cannabis Warehouse platform. This includes basic patient information, clinical details, and financial challenges.



## Step 2: Approval Process

Submitted cases are sent to the approval panel - currently made up of two doctors and a nurse practitioner. All three must approve for a case to be successful.



## Step 3: Script Fulfillment

If approved, the practitioner submits the prescription to the pharmacy, containing the COMPASS identifier and approved Tier. The pharmacy then follows their standard prescription fulfillment procedures.



## Step 4: Stock Ordering

The dispensing pharmacy places orders for COMPASS stock through the Cannabis Warehouse platform to meet orders or restock when utilising current inventory.



# Pilot Program Results

## **Duration & Brand Participation:**

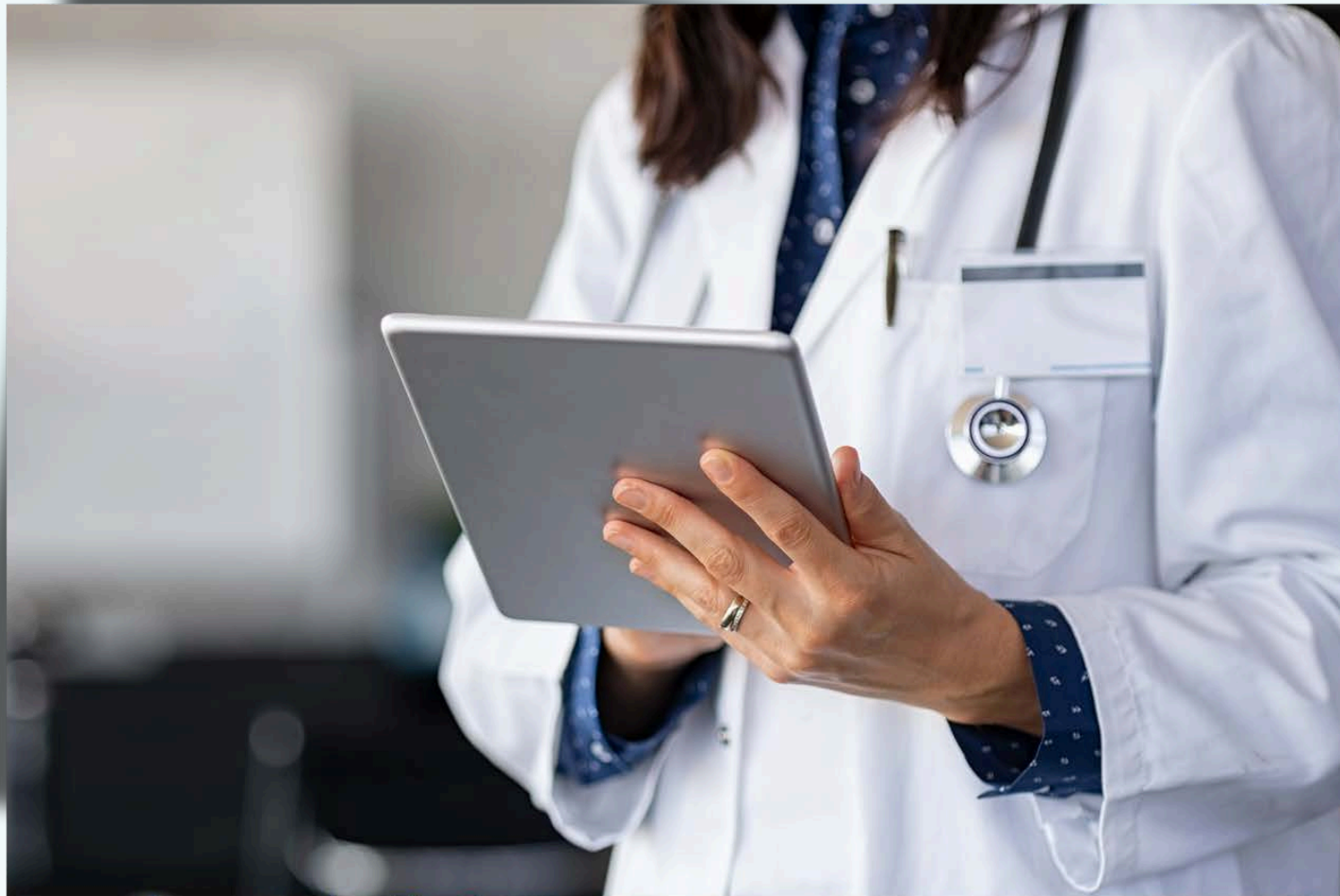
- 9 Brands enlisted over four months
- 700+ units contributed for patients

## **Practitioner Involvement:**

- 18 Practitioner sign-ups
- 65 successful patient submissions
- Around 90% are categorised as Tier 1 and Tier 2

## **Additional Support:**

- 6 Pharmacy Partners/Volunteers have contributed spots for an extra 500 patients.
- COMPASS program was nominated for the Cannabiz Awards in the category of Best Patient-Focused Initiative



# How it works

COMPASS Webinar link - Explains fully how the program work  
<https://cannabiscliniciansaustralia.org/compass>

**(To see how to submit a case as a practitioner, and how to review and order as participating pharmacy, fast forward to 18:10 - 25:00 of the video)**



# How it works



## COMPASS SUBMISSION APPROVED

Dear Masoud Shafiee,

Your COMPASS Program submission has been approved.

Please submit your script to Capital Chemist Southlands via email to southlands@capitalchemist.com.au.

Pharmacy: Capital Chemist Southlands

Date Placed: June 06, 2024

Compass Program Tier: COMPASS Program Tier 1 - 100% FREE

Patient Initials: JM

Patient DOB: 16/06/94

Approximate Repeats & Duration of Treatment: 1 repeat, 1 month

Medical Diagnosis/es: Medical diagnosis

Please submit your script to Capital Chemist Southlands via email to southlands@capitalchemist.com.au.

Pharmacy: Capital Chemist Southlands

Date Placed: June 06, 2024

Compass Program Tier: COMPASS Program Tier 1 - 100% FREE

Patient Initials: JM

Patient DOB: 16/06/94

Approximate Repeats & Duration of Treatment: 1 repeat, 1 month

Medical Diagnosis/es: Medical diagnosis

Brief summary of financial hardship: Summary of financial hardship

Practitioners Summary & Patient Background: Practitioners summary & patient background

Product	Category	Form	Quantity
CBD200	Cat 1	Oil	1
Grape Galena THC25	Cat 5	Flower	1
Apples & Bananas THC25	Cat 5	Flower	1

If you have any questions, please reach out to your team.

CW Support Team



# How to script & order

## Practitioners

- Send the script to the pharmacy via email or the preferred system
- The script is written the same with an additional note clearly stating - "COMPASS script, Tier X"
- Make sure the repeats contain the full amount (6 months worth)

## Pharmacies

- Pharmacy orders as per normal on CWA platform
- Pharmacy orders all the repeats so the stock is secured for the patient to fulfil the 6 month support guarantee
- They select the correct Tier when ordering to ensure correct price and reporting



# The Future of COMPASS

## **Expanding Network**

COMPASS is now ready to launch into the broader prescribers' network, involving prescribers beyond the current AMCA / CCA and ACNA membership.

## **Comprehensive Care & Support**

The pharmacy support network will now be expanded from the cities to metropolitan hubs and regions to facilitate access and support for patients regardless of their location.

## **Education and Quality Control:**

AMCA and its HCP associations have been developing education programs for prescribers and pharmacies on science, products and supply chain, available on its education platform, [teach-hub.org](http://teach-hub.org)

## **Long-term Viability:**

AMCA will review the proposal to the Health Minister for future financial backing, aiming to enhance the program's sustainability and alleviate the financial and administrative strain on all parties.

## **Nurse Support Line**

Have a nurse operated support line via a VOIP system to provide medical support to COMPASS patients.







# COMPASSIONATE ACCESS SCHEME

The Australian Medicinal Cannabis Association (AMCA), with support from Cannabis Warehouse, has initiated the COMPASS Program, a compassionate access scheme aimed at centralising and enhancing the supply of medicinal cannabis for patients in need across Australia.

This initiative addresses the scattered approach previously taken by several companies, streamlining efforts to ensure a more effective distribution of medicinal cannabis resources.

The COMPASS Program invites:

- medicinal cannabis prescribers to apply for support through COMPASS for any patient experiencing financial hardship
- medicinal cannabis producers to contribute either products or funds to maintain a consistent supply for patients who may not have the financial means to afford their treatments. This well-organised scheme is designed to meticulously manage the design, planning, allocation, and distribution of medicinal cannabis, thus ensuring its smooth operation and wide-reaching impact.

This program not only aims to provide relief to patients but also fosters collaboration among businesses in the industry, enhancing overall access to medicinal cannabis under regulated, ethical, and sustainable practices.



**SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER  
AS PRACTITIONER**



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