1. The purpose of the Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2016 is to provide a regulatory framework to facilitate treatment with medicinal cannabis, while also preventing unauthorised use of such products.
2. The Bill provides two pathways for a patient to receive treatment with medicinal cannabis:
* Under the single-patient prescriber pathway, a medical practitioner who believes their patient may benefit from treatment with medicinal cannabis may apply to the chief executive of Queensland Health for approval to prescribe a medicinal cannabis product for the patient. An expert advisory panel will be established to assist the chief executive consider applications for approval.
* Under the patient-class prescriber pathway, specialist doctors will have an as-of-right authority to prescribe specific medicinal cannabis products for patients suffering a specific range of conditions, without the need any additional chief executive approval.
1. All medicinal cannabis must be dispensed through an approved pharmacist or hospital pharmacy.
2. The Queensland Government undertook extensive consultation on a draft of the Bill in March to April 2016. Members of the public made submissions by completing an online survey, hosted on the *Get involved* website. A total of 1,052 submissions were received, with 96.29% of submitters in favour of patients having access to treatment with medicinal cannabis.
3. The Queensland Government also conducted targeted consultation with key health industry stakeholders, including doctors, pharmacists, nurses, hospitals and universities. These stakeholders praised the strong controls proposed to prevent unlawful diversion and to ensure only patients who may genuinely benefit from treatment can access medicinal cannabis.
4. Cabinet approved introduction of the Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2016 into the Legislative Assembly.
5. *Attachments*
	* [Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2016](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
	* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)