

MedReleaf Australia granted medicinal cannabis cultivation & production license

MedReleaf Australia has officially entered the Australian medicinal cannabis market today (Feb 1, 2018) after being granted ‘cultivation and production’ and ‘import’ licenses by the Federal Government’s Office of Drug Control (ODC).



MedReleaf Australia – the Australian joint venture company associated with one of Canada’s leading licensed producers of medical cannabis, MedReleaf Corp – is now taking early orders from Australian pharmacies and hospitals, with product anticipated in Q1, 2018. The company plans to import medicinal cannabis oils and capsules, as well as dried plant, manufactured in Canada

according to ICH Q7 Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) standards from MedReleaf Corp, while constructing its own manufacturing facility in South-East Queensland. MedReleaf Australia anticipates it will be able to cultivate and manufacture more than 20 tonnes of medicinal cannabis per annum once its facility is fully operational.

According to MedReleaf Australia Executive Chairman and CEO, pharmacist Russell Harding, through scientific rigour and best-practice, MedReleaf Australia aims to establish itself as a world-class, vertically integrated medicinal cannabis company.

“We’re delighted to have been granted Australian medicinal cannabis licenses and look forward to teaming with MedReleaf Corp to introduce their scientific and operational rigour to the Australian medical cannabis industry.

“Our manufacturing license is currently under assessment. If granted, MedReleaf Australia plans to manufacture cannabis-based medicinal products for specialists and GPs seeking to treat their patients with effective and novel pharmaceutical options,” said Mr Harding.

MedReleaf Corp is Canada’s first and only ISO 9001 certified – the world’s most widely recognised quality management system – and GMP certified producer of medical cannabis. The company’s CEO, Mr Neil Closner, expressed his enthusiasm for the launch of MedReleaf Australia, and willingness to offer guidance and expertise in medicinal cannabis production and marketing to the company’s joint venture Australian partner.

Publicly traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange, MedReleaf Corp. has a market capitalisation of approximately CAD \$2 billion.

“MedReleaf Corp is focused on international expansion in countries with a federal legal framework for cannabis.

“Australia is an attractive market with a population about two-thirds the size of Canada that focuses on medicinal applications,” Mr Closner said.

Medical media release

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“Providing our expertise to local partners allows us to participate in a greater number of international markets in a capital efficient way.”

By sourcing ISO 9001 and GMP medicinal cannabis products from MedReleaf Corp, Canada, Mr Harding hopes MedReleaf Australia products will, in due course, become approved on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG), and ultimately listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

“MedReleaf Australia’s vision is to make a genuine difference to the lives of people who, through no fault of their own, wage a daily battle against debilitating and often painful medical conditions.

“To realise our vision, we need to ensure all of our products are pharmaceutical-grade and meet the requirements and standards of the TGA,” said Mr Harding.

Upon market entry, MedReleaf Australia will offer General Practitioners, Specialists and Pharmacists an educational program currently being built independently by VentureWise (a subsidiary of NPS – Australia’s pre-eminent medical educator group). It is hoped the agreement between MedReleaf Australia and VentureWise will not only help to educate prescribers about medicinal cannabis, but will also build confidence in MedReleaf’s specific formulations.

“We aim to ensure that any healthcare practitioner or pharmacist who chooses to work with us, is armed with comprehensive education about our products. Importantly, we will ensure that our medicines will be of the highest pharmaceutical-grade quality and reliability.

“As a research-driven organisation, we plan to sponsor Universities in Queensland and South Australia, to perform a series of randomised controlled trials (RCTs) involving our products across several common disease states,” Mr Harding said.

MedReleaf Australia has contracted to purchase a four-hectare block of industrial land in south-east Queensland where it will commence construction of an initial 8,000 m² facility during 2018, with Stage 2 expansion to 23,000 m² under roof, as operations expand over coming years.

To learn more about MedReleaf Australia, head to medreleafaustralia.com.au.

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Issued by VIVA! Communications on behalf of MedReleaf Australia.

MEDIA CONTACTS

Kirsten Bruce & Mark Henderson, VIVA! Communications: 0401 717 566 / 0431 465 004

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