



## Participant Information Sheet

<b>Study title:</b>	Understanding how people with spinal cord injury use cannabis to manage pain	
<b>Principal investigator:</b>	<b>Name :</b> <i>Dr Jo Nunnerley</i>	<b>Contact phone number:</b>  0211872651

### Introduction

You are invited to take part in a study that aims to understand how people with spinal cord injury use cannabis to manage pain. Whether or not you take part is your choice. If you don't want to take part, you don't have to give a reason. If you do want to take part now, but change your mind later, you can pull out of the study at any time.

This Participant Information Sheet will help you decide if you'd like to take part. It sets out why we are doing the study, what your participation would involve, what the benefits and risks to you might be, and what would happen after the study ends. We will go through this information with you and answer any questions you may have. You do not have to decide today whether or not you will participate in this study. Before you decide you may want to talk about the study with other people, such as family, whānau, friends, or healthcare providers. Feel free to do this.

If you agree to take part in this study, the researcher will go through the Consent Form on the last page of this document and get verbal consent from you to take part. You will be given a copy of both the Participant Information Sheet and the Consent Form to keep.

This document is 4pages long, including the Consent Form. Please make sure you have read and understood all the pages.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

We currently don't have a lot of evidence to support the use of Cannabis for pain relief although we know that there are people using it to help with pain related to their spinal cord injury. We want to understand why people with spinal cord injury use cannabis to manage their Spinal cord injury pain, how they are using it, and the benefits and possible side effects that they experience. We hope this information can inform the legal and clinical debate surrounding the use of medicinal cannabis in New Zealand.

The people involved in the study are:

Dr Jo Nunnerley	University of Otago Christchurch and Burwood Academy of Independent Living
Dr Johnny Bourke	Burwood Academy of Independent Living
Rachelle Martin	University of Otago, Wellington and Burwood Academy of Independent Living
Dr Rick Acland	Burwood Academy of Independent Living

Associate Professor Willian Levack University of Otago, Wellington and Burwood Academy of  
Independent Living  
Dr Bronwyn Thompson University of Otago Christchurch

**If you have any questions about the study you can contact:**

Dr Jo Nunnerley Phone 03 3836871  
Email: Jo.nunnerley@burwood.org.nz

The study has been approved by the University of Otago Human Ethics (Health) Committee H18/081.

**WHAT WILL MY PARTICIPATION IN THE STUDY INVOLVE?**

You have been invited to participate in the study because you use or have used Cannabis products to manage your Spinal Cord Injury Pain.

If you agree to take part in this study we will first ask you to choose a pseudonym to be used instead of your real name. The researcher will go through the consent form with you and ask you to provide verbal consent to take part in the study. No documentation will have your name on.

We will ask you to take part in an interview to discuss your experiences of using Cannabis for pain relief. The interviews can be either in person (if you are based in Christchurch) or via phone or internet based communication such as Skype or Zoom. The interviews will be digitally recorded (audio not video) but your comments will be treated anonymously. You are able to decline to answer any of the questions during the interview. You will receive a copy of the transcribed interview before it is used in the study, to make sure you are happy with the contents.

**I WHO PAYS FOR THE STUDY?**

There are no direct costs to you for participating in the study other than your time.

**THERE ANY RISK OF DISCOMFORT OR HARM FROM PARTICIPATION?**

We do not anticipate any risks with taking part in this study.

**WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS?**

Your participation is entirely voluntary (your choice) and you do not have to take part in this study. If you do agree to take part you are free to withdraw from the study at any time, without having to give a reason. You have the right to access any information about you that is collected as part of the study.

No material that could personally identify you will be used in any reports on this study. All information stored will be securely locked in an office at the University of Otago. Your name will not be recorded so will not appear in any reports about this study however some details such as your age may be included.

**WHO DO I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF I HAVE CONCERNS?**

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about the study at any stage, you can contact:

Dr Jo Nunnerley  
Phone: 03 3836871  
Email: Jo.nunnerley@Otago.ac.nz

If you want to talk to someone who isn't involved with the study, you can contact an independent health and disability advocate on:

Phone: 0800 555 050  
Fax: 0800 2 SUPPORT (0800 2787 7678)  
Email: [advocacy@hdc.org.nz](mailto:advocacy@hdc.org.nz)

This study has been approved by the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee. If you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the research you may contact the Committee through the Human Ethics Committee Administrator (ph 03 479 8256). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated and you will be informed of the outcome.