

	<p><i>"We don't want an official marijuana industry. We're not going to be legalising it."</i> Medicinal – <i>"There's already a 'compassionate' and legal route for patients to get cannabis products - if they need them. The Minister's just changed the rules so that's a little bit easier, with the Ministry of Health now approving it instead of each one going to the minister. As far as we can see, that's going to work pretty well and we don't want to take it any further."</i> – PM Bill English (Apr 2017)⁸</p>
	<p>Conservative Party opposes the decriminalisation of the recreational use of marijuana. Conservative Party would only support the use of medical Marijuana if it passed the same strict testing required of other medicines.</p>
	<p>Any change must be subject to a binding government or citizens initiated referendum after a period of public debate.</p> <p>Medicinal – New Zealand First is not opposed to research into the potential benefits of pharmaceutical marijuana extracts, provided that these benefits are unobtainable elsewhere, and that any benefits are shown to be greater than any potential negative effects such extracts may include. If research into the validity of medical cannabis is completed and Pharmac chooses to make marijuana based drugs available in New Zealand then we would support it being purchased only through a pharmacist with a valid doctor's prescription.</p>
	<p><i>New Zealand should move towards decriminalising cannabis over time, Associate Health Minister Peter Dunne says. Mr Dunne said he wanted the country to follow Portugal's model, where the drug was legalised and regulated. The first step would be to treat possession of low levels of cannabis as a health issue, rather than a crime, he said.</i> – Radio NZ (May 2017)</p> <p>We support maintaining the current legal status of cannabis for recreational use. (Official response)</p> <p>We support maintaining the current legal pathway for patients to obtain cannabis for medical use. (Official response)</p>
	<p>Our full Drug Law Reform Policy includes a section outlining our position to make cannabis legal for personal use. That includes legalising cultivation for personal use, introducing a legal age limit for personal use, and providing education.</p> <p>Medicinal - Our full Drug Law Reform Policy includes a section outlining our position on the medicinal use of cannabis. While awaiting broader law change for cannabis, we would remove penalties for any person with a terminal illness, or chronic or debilitating condition to cultivate, possess or use cannabis and/or cannabis products for therapeutic purposes, provided they have the support of a registered medical practitioner.</p>
	<p><i>TOP proposes to have make cannabis legal with a minimum age of purchase of 20, allow individuals to grow up to two plants each, create public smoking areas, restrict advertising, and license non-profit charitable trusts to control retail sales of cannabis.</i> – Policy announcement (May 2017)</p>
	<p><i>"Personally, I'd (legalise cannabis) tomorrow."</i> – David Seymour, ACT leader (May 2017).</p> <p>ACT does not have a policy on decriminalisation of recreational use of marijuana or medicinal use of marijuana. (Official response)</p>
	<p>The Māori Party has always believed that if we, as a nation, are truly committed to whānau ora, we must address the social hazards that create such havoc on our health such as tobacco and cannabis smoking. The current policy is not to legalise marijuana but we are open to discussion about the decriminalisation of marijuana and feel this discussion needs to take place.</p> <p>Medicinal - We support the decriminalisation of the medicinal use of marijuana. We believe that the decision for the use of medicinal marijuana should be made by health professionals who would be best placed to make these decisions.</p>
	<p><i>No response received</i></p> <p><i>"The student asks (Jacinda Ardern) direct questions about cannabis and gets equally direct responses: Does Labour believe in drug reform? Yes. More than for just medical purposes? Yes."</i> (2016)</p> <p>Medicinal – <i>"...if a medical practitioner considers that you meet the criteria to access approved medicinal cannabis products, then you will be approved. No ifs, no buts.."</i> – Jacinda Ardern (2016)</p>