**HIGH AS MIKE CALLS FOR COMPASSION FOR 1,000,000 AUSTRALIANS IN PAIN**

There are fresh calls to fix Australia’s medicinal cannabis legislation thanks to a new Australian documentary.

Featuring entertainment legend Olivia Newton-John, *High As Mike* is the documentary which follows Mike Gallagher’s year- long battle to find a GP to prescribe legal medicinal cannabis despite laws permitting the treatment coming into effect in 2016.

Learning that there are an estimated 1,000,000 Australians that are accessing medicinal cannabis but only 4,000 legal prescriptions in the country, Mike comes to a stark realisation - if he decides to try medical cannabis, he can’t do so legally. He doesn’t have the right to try without turning to the black market and becoming a criminal.

“Gives Insight into Australia’s bureaucratic regulatory system

forcing patients into the black market” The Sunday Telegraph

Olivia Newton-John says the red-tape needs to be cut to help patients get the relief they so desperately need without being labelled as criminals.

“It is not compassionate or kind that they are making it so difficult for people because I am proof it works, you don’t die from cannabis yet we have a terrible opiate problem in the world, people dying of opiates and cannabis can take the place of opiates and people will not be dying,” she said.

“A powerful & cinematic wake up call” Filmink Magazine

*High As Mike* searches for the answers from both sides of the medical cannabis debate right across the country, meeting families who have gone on their own cannabis treatment journeys, black market suppliers, legal farms, politicians, doctors and lawyers.

With an estimated 3 million Australians suffering from chronic pain alone, *High As Mike* puts a spotlight on the issues facing medical professionals in Australia who are unable to provide a now

legal drug due to complex legislation, and a lack of education and resources, and reignite a national conversation.

This film is not about getting high – it’s about getting well.

ENDS

High As Mike is registered for a screening via FanForce at the XXX Cinema in [town] on [date]. There needs to be XX tickets sold for the screening to proceed. Book your ticket today at <https://fan-force.com/films/high-as-mike/>.

Contact for interviews: XXX (Registered screener for High as Mike in [insert town].)

<https://www.highasmike.com/>