



Media release

Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee

Report on Bill to decriminalise cannabis

A parliamentary examination of a Bill to decriminalise cannabis for personal use in Victoria has tabled its report.

The Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee makes 10 findings and seven recommendations.

The Victorian Government is being urged to draw on the experience of the ACT, which decriminalised personal use of cannabis in 2019, and consider adopting an approach proposed by the [Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment \(Regulation of Personal Adult Use of Cannabis\) Bill 2023](#).

It seeks to allow an adult to possess up to 50g of cannabis for personal use and to cultivate no more than six cannabis plants for personal use.

It would also permit an adult lawfully in possession of cannabis to give the cannabis to another adult as a gift.

Members of the Committee travelled to Canberra as part of the inquiry to learn of the impacts of the ACT's decriminalisation of personal use of cannabis. The report highlights data from ACT Health's review of the first three years of decriminalisation suggesting it has not led to a significant increase in cannabis-related harms.

The report finds that the Bill is largely consistent with the ACT legislation and concludes that cannabis use should be treated as a public health issue, which could reduce stigma and the consequences of small possession offenders being caught up in the criminal justice system.

The Committee also recommends the Bill be amended to include a five-year statutory review clause, to ensure appropriate monitoring and evaluation.

The inquiry received 58 submissions and held a day of public hearings in February.

You can [read the full report](#), including transcripts of evidence on the Committee's website.

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