



Ingrid Stitt MP

Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

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BAC-CO-46903

Robert McDonald
Clerk
Legislative Council
Parliament of Victoria
council@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr McDonald

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the petition tabled in the Legislative Council on 28 May 2024 requesting the Government change legislation regarding adult cannabis consumption and possession.

I acknowledge the petitioners' concerns and provide my response below.

The Allan Labor Government is committed to preventing and reducing drug related harm in the Victorian community and implementing innovative drug policy that works. Since 2014, the Labor Government has doubled the annual investment in drug and alcohol treatment, support, and harm minimisation initiatives.

This record investment has supported the implementation of range of reforms to reduce harm in our community, including the establishment the North Richmond Medically Supervised Injecting Service, the decriminalisation of public drunkenness, or our recent commitment to trial pill testing.

The Victorian Government recognises that cannabis remains the most widely used illegal drug in Victoria. While we understand the effects of cannabis vary from one person to another, we know that cannabis use has potential health and wellbeing harms. Cannabis-associated harms also intersect with other areas of harm such as criminalisation and road safety.

While the Victorian Government has no plans to decriminalise cannabis use and/or possession, we know that health-led policies towards drug use yield positive social and economic outcomes, and that law enforcement alone does not address the issue. We will continue to work across government to prevent and reduce the harms associated with cannabis through coordinated effort and evidence-based action.

I trust this information has been of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ingrid Stitt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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11 / 7 / 2024