



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Legal and Social Issues Standing Committee – Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Leading movers on cannabis policy to appear at parliamentary inquiry

A parliamentary inquiry investigating the use of cannabis in Victoria will this week hear first-hand from representatives in the ACT, which in 2019 passed new laws to regulate personal use and cultivation of cannabis.

ACT MLA Michael Petterson, who introduced the private members' Bill that passed the Legislative Assembly, will appear at the inquiry on Wednesday alongside Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs Association ACT CEO Devin Bowles for a panel discussion.

"The ACT has decriminalised the possession, use and cultivation of small amounts of cannabis for adults, which is a major shift in government policy," Committee Chair Fiona Patten said.

"It is really important we hear from our interstate neighbours about how the new laws are operating as we look at the many different ways we could reform cannabis policy in this state."

The ACT stakeholders will be among seven groups of witnesses giving evidence at the Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee hearing.

Representatives from Victoria Legal Aid, Health and Community Services Union, the National Drug Research Institute, Drug Free Australia, Springvale Monash Legal Service and academic Dr Kate Seear will also share their views with the Committee.

The hearing will be [live broadcast](#) from 10 am Wednesday 19 May and the [full schedule](#) is available on the [Committee's website](#).

More than 1400 submissions have been made to the inquiry and several public hearings have already been held, including in Beechworth in regional Victoria.

The Committee is due to hand down a final report by 5 August 2021.

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