

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Ms Syndi Li Walton

Organisation Name:
Your position or role:

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Drag the statements below to reorder them. In order of priority, please rank the themes you believe are most important for this Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria to consider::

Public health,Mental health,Young people and children,Accessing and using cannabis,Social impacts,Education,Public safety,Criminal activity

What best describes your interest in our Inquiry? (select all that apply) :

Individual

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

Select all that apply. Do you think there should be restrictions on the use of cannabis? :

Personal use of cannabis should be legal. ,Sale of cannabis should be legal and regulated. ,Cultivation of cannabis for personal use should be legal.

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

This is a personal opinion. I am a dual-citizen of Canada and Australia. I am also a psychologist, and have conducted cannabis research in Canada prior to moving to Australia.

I have had the privilege of spending significant amounts of time in each country, getting to know the people, policies and procedures of each nation. Having lived in Canada prior to, during, and after the legalisation or recreational cannabis use, it baffles me that Australia has not yet seriously considered a similar course of action. It is without a doubt that there are genuine public health and safety concerns with cannabis use, particularly in the event that young people are able to access cannabis--I have conducted research on mental health related effects of early cannabis use, which include schizophrenia and other schizoid-personality disorders. But it is naive to think that children and young people are unable to access cannabis in Australia's current state. It is a matter of legalising the sale and consumption of a product that has similar (and arguably, less) negative effects than alcohol. Following the legalisation of cannabis in Canada, there was a large increase in provincial and federal revenues, which funded health, education, and other initiatives. As well, there was a reduction in violent crime.

For personal liberties and social advancement, I ask that this Council strongly considers the merits of legalising of cannabis.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:
File2:
File3:

Signature:

Syndi Li Walton