

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

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

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 decriminalised.

(Decriminalised: there are no criminal or civil penalties instead a person is referred to a drug diversion program or other health/ treatment service),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:

Hello committee members and thank you for reading my submission. My main point is in regards to reference d, however I will touch on a few other points I believe to be relevant and integral to the use, understanding and legalisation of cannabis in Victoria.

Recreational cannabis use in Victoria is currently illegal, this forces any individuals who wish to use cannabis outside of approved medical circumstances to turn to "criminals" in order to purchase the contraband product. This encourages usually law abiding citizens to approach drug dealers and become a part of the "underground" world of drugs.

Legalisation and decriminalisation could achieve many different benefits for Victoria, it's citizens and even the Nation. A new sector could be born, that in turn increases jobs and taxes while providing a safe framework for the sale, education and understanding.

The main barrier that is holding education back is the taboo nature surrounding cannabis. Through legalisation, the conversation can be had, understood and furthered in an open forum. This is the way to drive understanding, education and awareness for all numbers of our community.

The safety of our children is of paramount importance and I have no illusions that the legalisation of cannabis would increase the amount of cannabis that is readily available. This however can be compared to the use of a currently legal drug, alcohol. Though we have education and laws surrounding the sale and access of alcohol to minors, individuals under the legal drinking age are well known to have access to their drink of choice. Minors are also, unfortunately, currently able to access cannabis, and many individuals who

use the substance have used it before the age of 18. Like alcohol and tobacco, our best defence against underaged individuals accessing cannabis is education, and proper education can not be had without legalisation.

This is, of course, a difficult issue. Legalisation of a prohibited substance should not be rushed, nor should the decision be made lightly. The outcome of this decision will have impacts of peoples lives, it is up to the committee, the law makers and our politicians to make the right decision for everyone.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

While I promote the recreational use of cannabis, I understand that laws need to be made to protect the citizens of a nation (or in this instance, state). I believe the legalisation and decriminalisation of cannabis can be beneficial if implemented properly. I do, however, wish to convey my concerns regarding the issue of licences. Many states in America have found issues regarding licencing store owners and dispencerics. A limit on the number of licences, a " high cost" of licences and monopolization of businesses can create more problems than illigal drugs ever could.

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

████████████████████