

## 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::**

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

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

Individual, Working in the alcohol and drug services sector

**Are there any additional themes we should consider?**

Research, Industrial usage.

**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.,Other – please explain.

Use of non intoxicating Industrial HEMP should be legal and subsidised.

### YOUR SUBMISSION

#### Submission:

In order of the terms of reference:

- a.) The best way to ensure Cannabis stays out of the hands of minors is to bring the market above ground, and by imposing measures and restrictions on the purchase of cannabis similar to those imposed for the purchase of alcohol and tobacco.
- b.) Research into technology to be at the forefront of identifying legitimately intoxicated drivers while stoned that picks up on immediate to 5 hour inhaling of smoke or immediate to 12 hour consumption of edibles if possible, over current methods that can pick up samples that are 24 hours old. This would increase trust and confidence in the system, and with appropriate legislation would act as a reasonable deterrent to consuming cannabis and driving. Otherwise public safety isn't a hazard in terms of legal and regulated cannabis.
- c.) One of the most important reasons I support legalisation over decriminalisation is the ability to take said revenue and use it to improve our society. A good education on drug use would tackle the accepted fact among adults that alcohol does more harm than any illegal drug, being the son of two alcoholics and having worked in selling liquor, I've seen many different angles on how it can be harmful. But also how tobacco, methamphetamine, and heroin are extremely hard drugs to shake and can wreak havoc on otherwise healthy people and minds. Cannabis education needs to be on par with Alcohol education. Understanding it's not for everyone, your mind will tell you to stop before your body does, and that peer pressure is unacceptable. The Colorado Legalisation model proves that cannabis sales lead to bounties for state government funding of education and other services.
- d.) Bringing the business above ground will make legitimate business people out of currently illegal practices, and will be a means for those people to make a legitimate living instead of digging themselves further into criminality. I've previously known dealers who have sold weed out of their left hand and offered "anything you need" out of their right. Bringing Cannabis out of the darkness will prevent more people following those directions. The Uruguay legalisation model shows making cannabis cheap and widely

available completely destroys the ability for dangerous cartels to profit from its production and sale.

e.) This is the part where I can tell you about how when I've toked daily through portions of my adult years, I've been able to keep two jobs and volunteer at some points, and other times just managed to keep myself together. It's when I don't smoke, that's when I start drinking, and that is purely from availability. I get more restless when drinking, loud, obnoxious, and sometimes a bit more assertive. It also doesn't agree with me mentally. When I was 18 I made a deal with myself that I'd never take my own life while drunk. When I've had access to cannabis instead of alcohol, I've never considered suicide. Recently I've been diagnosed with Anxiety and Depression stemming from Asperger's Disorder. The only two things that have ever made me anxious while involved with getting access to and using cannabis are 1. that I'm doing something illegal and 2. Drunk people being unpredictable. That said, in my personal opinion, life would be easier and more satisfying if I could go to a local head shop and buy cannabis from there, and perhaps like the Amsterdam model, cafe's or lounges opened that made it easy to socialise and be involved with other people. What could hurt about people socially enjoying something they share in common? I can also state that unfortunately I'll never know if cannabis might have made mum's last few years more comfortable, or encouraged creativity instead of apathy and depression. Mum passed away from Progressive Supranuclear Palsy and Parkinsons Plus complications in 2018. She was never interested in trying it when I was most interested in if it would help, due to stigma's she was able to remember. I can definitely say that having some handy for me while dealing with mum and at that point not knowing that I have Asperger's, it helped me cope mentally.

**Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:**

Something that's really important to me is Industrial HEMP. a single 7 foot HEMP bush can suck as much co2 out of the atmosphere as 4 pine trees, can be watered with recycled water that is many times more efficient than cotton or pulp timber, HEMP rope is extremely strong, HEMP in general is extremely viable and is an industry of its own away from recreational and medicinal cannabis.

I also feel that submitting this without mentioning the Portuguese decriminalisation model in an honourable mention is doing the conversation injustice. It should be considered in any conversation around drug use and public safety.

**FILE ATTACHMENTS**

**File1:**

**File2:**

**File3:**

**Signature:**

