

## Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Mr Andris Blums

**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,Education,Mental health,Social impacts,Accessing and using cannabis,Young people and children,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?**

Legalisation including recreational use

**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:**

Policy should be based on evidence . The diversion of the funds spent on enforcement and incarceration to treatment of usage and addiction, education would be a superior outcome than legal sanctions , prisons and creating other long term social disadvantage

Addiction including gambling is a health issue . Cannabis usage is a health issue as are equivalent issues with alcohol. Being drunk is no longer treated as a crime requiring incarceration in its self .

The diversion of enforcement to health and the new taxation revenue for social goods like eradicating homelessness are a social good

I recall seeing one report yanks ago that only 5% of the Victorian police budget for drug enforcement purposes was spent on investigating the big boys like Williams . The rest is spent on criminalising for life recreational users and small time or casual dealers

The current policies are immoral and unethical and only serve to criminalise a section of society that is otherwise law abiding

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

There is ample evidence in the public domain globally that a evidence based policy of recreational use has superior social outcomes and frees up funds from unproductive usage like incarceration and creates additional revenue to finance other socially desirable outcomes

If one examines prohibition in America and its repeal you will see that the present movement to liberate marijuana is following a similar trajectory of social change to that that abolished alcohol prohibition. We're

America goes the world goes particularly as in many parts of the world social drug use was a common accepted norm prior to the American promoted. UN treaty on drugs . This treaty is currently under review and the recommendation should be the basis of reform in Victoria . Plus of course the evidence that legalisation has a overall social good

Liberalisation in America raises issue for the continuation of existing anti drug policies world wide based on the original UN treaty from the 1940's

Thailand for one has floated legalising recreational use and one could argue that the current decriminalisation for medical purposes has the purpose of in future raising revenue for the state to use for the social good .

Currently, several 100000 prisoners in Thailand around 2/3rds of the total are serving time for minor drug offences

If minor drug offenders in Victoria had not been criminalised there would be a significant reduction in incarceration rates particularly indigenous peoples . Combine these savings with enforcement savings and new revenue streams from taxation and the evidence points to a superior community outcome over a continuation of the current policies

## **FILE ATTACHMENTS**

**File1:**

**File2:**

**File3:**

**Signature:**

Andris Blums