

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

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

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

Individual, Working in the health sector

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

Economic benefits of cannabis legalization - Colorado, a US state with a similar population size to Victoria (5.7m vs 6.3m). In 2019, the state made over \$300 million in revenue from taxing the sale of cannabis - that's \$300m more we can spend on schools,

YOUR SUBMISSION

b) protect public health and public safety in relation to the use of cannabis in Victoria.

Protect from what? Alcohol is responsible for nearly 6,000 deaths in Australia each year (<https://www.cancerwa.asn.au/articles/news-2018/alcohol-causes-nearly-6000-australian-deaths-in-on/>) and further affects massive levels of harm on families, individuals and society as a whole. The Australian Institute of Criminology reports that the evidence relating to the range of individual and social harms associated with alcohol is strong (<https://aic.gov.au/publications/rip/rip04>), with the total costs attributable to alcohol-related crime being \$1.7b. They report that 1 in 4 Australians have experienced alcohol-related verbal abuse, 13% were made to feel fearful by someone under the influence of alcohol, and 4.5% of Australians aged 14 years or older had been physically abused by someone under the influence of alcohol. Yet despite the massive social harm caused by alcohol being legal, you can still go down to the bottle shop and buy enough alcohol to kill yourself with no questions asked. Am I suggesting alcohol should be illegal? No. I am simply pointing out how ridiculous it is that cannabis, a drug that does not cause violent behaviour and is impossible to overdose on, remains illegal, while alcohol and tobacco do not. Cannabis legalization would generate massive amounts of tax revenue for the state, which we could spend on more infrastructure, healthcare and schools.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

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.