

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Ms Patricia Lisle

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

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the inquiry into the use of cannabis in Victoria. I have recently begun using medicinal cannabis to treat anxiety and chronic pain. The very high cost had deterred me from using it earlier. While it's too early for me to know how my chronic pain will be affected by the treatment, I have already enjoyed very welcome relief from anxiety.

Recreational use of cannabis can cause problems for children and young people, so concerns to regulate cannabis use in some way are very reasonable. However, there is absolutely no evidence that legalisation of cannabis leads to greater use. On the contrary, legalising cannabis would do the good of breaking the connection between those people who seek to use it and the black market, and wipe out that opportunity for criminal activity.

As far as I am aware, there has not been sufficient funding or support for research into the benefits of medicinal cannabis to provide a huge amount of evidence in support of its efficacy. However, there have been promising research results and there is, in addition, a vast store of anecdotal support from people who have experienced the value of medicinal cannabis for their problems.

I believe cannabis use and growing plants for personal use should be decriminalised, but that there should be restrictions on the sale or provision to young people. As the evidence is clear that legalisation does not increase use, there should actually be less problems for young people when cannabis use is accepted as a substance like alcohol. Of course some people will still be at risk, as they are with alcohol. But education around the substance could at last be only factual. Many young people now gain access to dope and enjoy a high with no harmful side effects, and learn not to trust authorities. Their own experience of people who are alcoholics, of the potential for domestic violence and driving fatalities associated with alcohol etc etc can be contrasted to the experience of being with a bunch of stoned people laughing and seemingly incapable of violence. They must ask themselves why cannabis is illegal and doubt authorities who make it so. Surely this

must have the negative effect of their not paying attention to the explanations of the real risks of cannabis for growing brains and for people with certain predispositions.

I hope that, at the very least, access to medicinal cannabis is streamlined and made less expensive. However, I also believe cannabis use should be decriminalised. I expect it would seem too big a step at first, but eventually, I think cultivation for personal use should be allowed as well.

Yours sincerely

Patsy Lisle

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Patricia Lisle