

## Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Mr Henry Kassay

**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, Young people and children, Education, Criminal activity, Mental health, Social impacts, Public health, Public safety

**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 legal. ,Sale of cannabis should be legal and regulated. ,Cultivation of cannabis for personal use should be legal.

### YOUR SUBMISSION

#### Submission:

a. I think legalisation and regulation of cannabis is the best way to ensure minors are unable to access cannabis. Keeping the sale and use of cannabis illegal will only make it easier for minors to access (on the assumption that people who sell cannabis don't have their own ethical code about selling to people under a certain age). If cannabis was legalised and regulated on the same level as alcohol, I think it would be much harder for children to obtain. This is because unregulated sellers are replaced by licensed dispensaries. I think it is also worth noting the following study in relation to the above:

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2737637>

b. I think that the legalisation of cannabis in certain states in the USA and throughout Canada have shown there are little public health and safety concerns as a result of the legal sale and personal use of cannabis. I cannot find any statistics indicating that driving under the influence of cannabis has increased / has resulted in additional car accidents, which I am guessing would be the most common public health arguments to be made against the legalisation of cannabis.

c. If cannabis is legalised, education about its uses and potential harmful effects (to the developing brains of youth) could be incorporated into existing education about alcohol use. Not to mention - drugs are already discussed in depth within Australian education systems - at least in my experience. Therefore, I don't see the legalisation of cannabis causing a drastic shift in our education system, nor do I think it is imposing a responsibility on the education system that it isn't already facilitating.

d. The best means to reduce criminal activity surrounding cannabis is to make it legal for personal use.

e. I think the Victorian Government would have resources at its disposal to facilitate a trial period of legal cannabis where they can make the submission of a survey (regarding mental health, impacts on others, etc.) a requirement of participating in the trial. I think there is enough evidence from the legalisation of Cannabis in other countries to support that a trial, at the very least, would not result in public health and safety impacts. This is only one example of a range of measures the Victorian Government could implement to safely legalise cannabis.

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

I think it is worth pointing out that it logically does not make sense for cannabis to be illegal when alcohol is, given the negative health impacts associated with alcohol are objectively worse than cannabis. I also think the economic benefits of legalising cannabis cannot be ignored, particularly given the effect the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the economy.

**FILE ATTACHMENTS**

**File1:**

**File2:**

**File3:**

**Signature:**

Henry Kassay