

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

MR Christopher Huang-Leaver

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

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.,There should be no restrictions. ,Other – please explain.

All drugs should be legal

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

I remember hearing about someone getting fined \$200 for pulling their bins to the nature strip without wearing a face mask. Even if that story was true, I don't need to worry, the chance of that happening to me, living in super low crime, mostly white area, is close to zero.

Although few feel comfortable talking about it, the same is true of drug possession charges, particularly cannabis. The law disproportionately effects some sections of society more than others.

I imagine for a lot of people like me, who have no interest in drugs, who find arguments about cannabis being the elixir of life annoying, there would be no reason to support decriminalizing drugs. (I support the decriminalization of *all* drugs, not just cannabis) There are plenty.

Because drugs are illegal and banking AML procedures, while far from perfect, do work, drug deals involve cash. Large amounts of cash attracts violence, this disproportional effects poorer neighborhoods.

Legalization of drugs would have positive outcomes for public safety.

Anti drug laws are used a pretext to aggressive police tactics, which is of particular concern ethnic minorities, but ultimately effects everyone. Vast sums of public money and resources go into operations which only disrupt the flow of illegal drugs for a few hours at most. The police and the justice system are not the right tools to handle this type of societal problem.

To deal drugs successfully at any level will involve corrupt payment to the police. Keeping the police clean

is 'cursed' problem, where motivations pull in opposite directions. Taking the source of corruption away would help everyone, both the community and the members of the police force trying to do 'the right thing.'

For the sake of brevity, lets accept that using drugs is worse for your health than not using them. I don't believe the risks justify the cost of keeping the system the way it is, particularly with cannabis who's health effects are know to be mild.

Several states in the US have attempted legalizing cannabis in different ways; some have worked better than others, the problems have all related to excessively paranoid rules on how many dispensaries can open, laws setup to favor small numbers of huge players. (A diverse marketplace with lots of smaller providers is preferable) and clashes between state and federal legislation. None of which created a worse situation than existed before.

With a little care and honest discussion I believe Victoria could be a world example on the best way to end the war on drugs and I hope the administration are brave enough to follow through.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Chris Huang-Leaver