

## Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

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

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

Individual, other – please explain

Musician - (most people I know do drugs of some sort, of varying frequency.)

**Are there any additional themes we should consider?**

\*i'm referring to public health as the need for cannabis to assist public health and take emphasis off of opioids in our medical system.

**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.

The government should adequately regulate and tax cannabis sales. I don't think people should go to jail for any cannabis related offences though.

### YOUR SUBMISSION

**Submission:**

I'm 20 y/o, and first smoked when I was 17. Important to note, I first drank a few weeks before my 18th.

My main points are:

I use cannabis, I smoke it, vape it, and ingest it. I treat it like alcohol, I use it in a recreational manner, but have occasionally used it to wind down after extremely stressful days of work.

Cannabis should be legalised and those currently in jail for cannabis related crime should be pardoned. The legal age should be 18, just as it is with tobacco and alcohol.

There should be education ran on responsible use of cannabis, just like "drink and drive you're a bloody idiot", "drinkwise" etc.

Public health is important; our medical system should be empowered to prescribe cannabis where appropriate. This could lead to less dependencies on opioids, or at the very least, people in less pain etc.

Public safety can and should be a priority, but shouldn't heavily infringe on cannabis users. Personally, I'd prefer no restrictions, but understand the need to regulate where people are using cannabis in public etc, like it's done with alcohol and tobacco.

If the aim is to prevent criminal activity relating to the illegal cannabis trade, I would urge the Gov to think about fair pricing. But I would also urge them to think about the difference between those who home-brew beer vs grow cannabis. Personally, I see them as non-issues in the grand scheme of things. A government controlled sale of cannabis should not have to rely on imprisoning people to properly control the market. Something that is really important for me, is that Victoria find a better way to test for cannabis in the system of drivers, as it's a farce that sober people can lose their license for having smoked two days prior. Those

who drink can have as much alcohol as they like two days prior and not face this kind of unfair treatment. I am all for public education which makes smoking and driving a taboo, just like drinking and driving. I've found that my mental health can degrade when I use cannabis in excess. I've found the same with alcohol.

I'm a musician and I know plenty of people in the arts who use harder drugs recreationally, than cannabis (mdma, cocaine, ketamine, etc).

Most people in the arts I know, have tried cannabis, and most continue to use recreationally (at different frequencies).

Most people I know who have tried cannabis and don't use anymore, is because they had a negative experience in regards to how much they used, rather than the legality stopping them.

It's not hard for me to buy cannabis. I know at least 4 people within a 30 minute drive I could buy from, and that's not including going into the melb CBD to buy.

The legality, or lack there of, will never stop me from buying, and I'd be more than happy to buy from a government regulated and taxed store. The less risk involved, the more safe I'd feel.

This is all anecdotal evidence, because I'm not a scientist, or a doctor, or a psychologist. I will continue to advocate for the decriminalisation and legalisation of cannabis regardless of the outcome of this inquiry.

The only fact I have to add is:

Colorado in the US have 1 million less people than Victoria, but in 5 years reached 1 billion USD in cannabis tax revenue.

"It took the state three and a half years to reach the \$500 million mark, and just under two years to double the revenue source." - <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/12/colorado-passes-1-billion-in-marijuana-state-revenue.html>

Thanks for giving me your time.

With love.

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

## **FILE ATTACHMENTS**

**File1:**

**File2:**

**File3:**

**Signature:**

[REDACTED]