

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Mr Jonathan Wilson

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, Public health, Mental health, Education, Criminal activity, Public safety, Social impacts

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

Individual

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

Employment opportunities which a viable cannabis industry would generate.

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

We should be moving towards a regulated legal cannabis industry. There are incredible opportunities for jobs, business development and a industry capable of generating significant revenue for government through the various taxes (company, GST and licence fees)

Allowing the opening of cannabis dispensary's where quality product is available for consumers and to move away from what is currently happening where cannabis is readily available on the black market but the type/strain of cannabis is unknown.

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

Dear Committee.

I have never made a submission of this type before so sorry if it not set out in the usual or standard format.

First of all with regard to the Terms of Reference, there seems to be an overall negative feeling with the terms. I hope the inquiry will also look at some positive outcomes from the potential legalisation of cannabis. Cannabis is an amazing plant so let's try to get away from the image of the "No good Stoner". Do we always think of the alcohol industry in terms of drunks and alcoholics? No, we have food and wine festivals, celebrity wine labels, beer companies sponsoring sport. Is alcohol is less harmful than cannabis? It's readily available, socially accepted, so why not let cannabis be the same with the right framework to allow this to happen in a safe, practical way.

Cannabis has a history going back thousands of years and has been used for both medical and recreational purposes. Cannabis is not just one type, there are many different kinds. Cannabis Sativa and Cannabis Indica are the most talked about as well as a newer Hybrid variety.

Sativa and Indica strains have been around since the 18th century while the Hybrid strain is relatively new. Within these 3 strain types are numerous other strains which all have unique properties and varying levels of cannabinoids, particularly the 2 major ones, THC and CBD.

The levels of THC and CBD with in a particular strain, determine what the effect will be on the consumer. A regulated market allows for the cannabis consumer to know what they are buying in terms of strain type. Currently the consumer will buy whatever is on offer and has no idea of what they are buying and hence do not know what the THC and CBD levels are. Back in the early 90's when I was a consumer, some cannabis had a nick name of "Bush Buds". The effect was light and fun and from a recreational point was similar to have a few drinks with friends. Towards the middle of the 90's hydroponic grown cannabis was taking over and the strength of what was being sold increased significantly. There was no indication and/or knowledge of what the strain type was, it was just marijuana. At this point, for me at least it was far too strong to use so I gave up. But I have/had friends who continued, all who do continue wish they could have a choice in what they are consuming, but when buying from the black market there is no choice.

It is also important to note that cannabis bought from illegal sources that sell untested products could contain pesticides, fungi, mould, bacteria, heavy metals and other substances which can pose serious health risks.

A regulated cannabis industry with dispensary's selling quality product where the consumer can have choice in what they are buying and having age restrictions and id checks, just like we do for alcohol, could go along way to removing the black market / criminal element within the cannabis industry. The same checks will also prevent sales to under age people.

If we do nothing and just carry on as we are, then nothing will change. The current "War on Drugs" does not work. Drugs of all types are readily available for anyone to purchase.

Cannabis could be an amazing industry for this state, generating company taxes, wages, licence fees and creating jobs. It's just the type of new industry we need to get the state moving again after Covid-19.

With the right framework, regulations, education and changes in peoples perception of cannabis after years of negative press we could start something new and with potential to generate millions of dollars.

Yours truly,

Jonathan Wilson

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Jonathan Wilson