

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

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

Individual, Advocacy body

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

Taxation

**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:

As a young person growing up and attending events in Victoria for several years, I have witnessed first hand the negative effects of drug criminalisation. It is clear that drug culture is still very much a part of most young people's lives and the impacts of the black nature of the market is clear, with many people I know and others that I have just seen out at events forced to rely on unregulated and dangerous suppliers.

Because of this connection to a black market, access to other more dangerous drugs is pretty easy to come by, with everything from dangerous prescription drugs to the usual suspects of 'hard' drugs like heroin and ice also quite available and connected to the black distribution market. Evidence from other states and countries that have implemented cannabis decriminalisation have clearly demonstrated that it has little to no impact on usage of cannabis, but regulating the market for cannabis also creates separation between the black market and cannabis users.

Anecdotally, I also know several members of VicPol who have all expressed to me that cannabis is viewed as a harmless annoyance to most officers who tend to ignore or downplay the possession or use of cannabis in favour of pursuing other policing issues, such as criminal activity involving more serious drugs or non-drug crimes such as domestic violence or assault.

I advocate not only for the decriminalisation of personal cannabis use, but also the regulation of the substance and its growth, creating more jobs in Victoria, creating a new avenue for state tax revenue ahead of other states or the federal government, and reducing harm to users by standardising and legitimising the sale of cannabis and its various related products.

The evidence in favour of decriminalisation is strong and well documented, as I'm sure this inquiry will find. I hope the committee, like me, will advocate to maximise the public safety and economic benefit of decriminalisation by moving to a regulated and taxed cannabis production and retail market, making it easier for the sale of safe cannabis to be restricted to those that are of age, and crushing the black market which has no regard for public safety or mental health issues.

<https://ndarc.med.unsw.edu.au/blog/australias-recreational-drug-policies-arent-working-so-what-are-options-reform>

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

## **FILE ATTACHMENTS**

**File1:**

**File2:**

**File3:**

**Signature:**

