

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

[REDACTED]

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

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:

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

I have friends who have been charged with cannabis related offences. In some cases because they accessed products for family members, who were sick and benefited from using cannabis products. My friends are not criminals in my eyes, or in the eyes of most Australians. Criminalising cannabis use is out of step with public sentiment. There shouldn't be just two options for accessing cannabis; a GP or a dealer. Cannabis belongs in the garden, under the sun with the tomatoes. Two plants per person, grown in the backyard is fair.

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1: [5f437f3b3c264-Vic Cannabis Enquiry.docx](#)

File2:

File3:

Signature:

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Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria.

a. The number of Canadian teenagers between the ages of 15-17 who consume cannabis has dropped from 20% to 10% since the country legalized cannabis: <https://thegreenfund.com/weed-use-decreases-among-teenagers-in-canada>

b. The public should have the option to grow backyard cannabis legally to ensure a safe product. 100% organic cannabis should be the norm. It belongs in the garden with the tomatoes. By legalizing recreational cannabis use and allowing people to grow in their backyards – takes control of the plant out of criminal networks, and into the hands of gardeners and everyday working Australians. Illicit cannabis sold in Australia can be very harmful as it is commonly grown with carcinogenic Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs) and other nasty additives: <https://friendlyaussiebuds.com/australian-cannabis-education/pgr-toxic-weed/>

c. Education and messaging regarding cannabis use needs to be accurate and balanced. “Just don’t do it” – has never, will never work. We need to be realistic. Young people are told marijuana is bad, with dangers not dissimilar to ice or heroin. So what happens? They try marijuana and realize it isn’t so terrible, and so they think; ‘well maybe the other drugs aren’t so bad either.’

Recreational cannabis use needs to be disassociated from the bad drugs, and appreciated for what it is: an easy to grow herb, relatively benign for 18+ users.

The ‘edibles’ market in America and Canada is a good example of contemporary cannabis messaging and culture; shifting public awareness of cannabis use towards a ‘health and wellness’ product associated with responsible and safe use.

d. A visit to the numerous hydroponic stores around Melbourne – that directly cater to the illicit cannabis-growing market – gives real-world insight into how well established and extensive the local cannabis growing industry is. Australia’s excessive policing of cannabis is expensive and time-consuming, with negligible effect on the number of Australians who use cannabis regularly: <https://thegreenfund.com/why-australia-needs-to-legalize-cannabis>

Recreational cannabis use in Australia is here to stay. The problem is where the cannabis is sourced from. Two plants per person in the backyard solves a lot of the problem of criminal supply. As well, commercial growers should be able to thrive side-by-side with home and specialty cultivators. Trying to deny the reality of recreational cannabis use in Australia, and instead having the only available option as prescribed by a GP, won’t affect the criminal control of the recreational market. Take recreational cannabis out of criminal monopoly, and instead create a health-conscious industry with products valued on safety and quality.