

## Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

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

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

Individual

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

### YOUR SUBMISSION

In the current environment, cannabis is easily accessible by all parts of the community, via illegal trade. Legalisation introduces an ability to regulate and better educate all sectors of the community, and better assess product use and available from a medical and social standpoint.

Benefits to the public health system must be considered in this inquiry. Use of cannabis to treat chronic pain conditions in society is in my experience broadly accepted and openly discussed in consultation with medical professionals. Bringing this into the open where it can be legally recommended by healthcare professionals, and managed in conjunction with other treatment without stigma is of direct benefit to the many Victorians managing chronic pain conditions in conjunction with maintaining a healthy lifestyle in the long term.

In my experience, I am an adult who is prescribed Endone to manage a chronic back pain issue which has otherwise been managed by three separate invasive spinal surgeries in my lifetime. I am 38, and am a qualified professional working within the IT & Education sectors. I do not enjoy taking endone - I am well aware that it is addictive, and I find it effectively debilitating though impact to my cognitive functions and nausea. I can only use this prescribed drug to manage unusual circumstances, such as long haul flights.

In the past few years, all medical professionals managing my treatment (osteopathy, GP and outpatients) have quietly enquired as to whether I could consider using cannabis to more regularly manage my chronic pain. I do, and they are accepting and supporting of this management. In effect, my self management using this drug is administered in support of maintaining physical activity and supporting faster recovery times post-exercise, managed through windows of time where it is appropriate and self mitigated in terms of access to driving and public interactions. It is because of this that I am still able to attend my job on a daily basis, commute, and perform regular daily exercise without being in debilitating pain each night.

I personally would have my quality of life improved by having access to cannabis as a part of managing my chronic pain, but also in part as a recreational drug which is paired with medical activity - by this, I mean that I can achieve walks and exercise as part of a weekend, and be able to recover and have the ability to walk even just around the block the following day, and socialise with people. This is not something I am able to achieve with Endone, or medical treatments such as osteopathy on its own. Whilst I have access to the ability to medicate myself illegally right now, I would appreciate being able to do so fully legally, and with the ability to access a regulated, legal market, as well as education and formal guidelines on activities such as driving, to ensure the safety of myself and others.

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

**Select all that apply.**

**Do you think there should there 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.