

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Ms Lisa Peterson

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

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

Working in the alcohol and drug services sector, other – please explain
Lived experience

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. , There should be no restrictions.

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

I'm going to start this by disclosing that I have smoked cannabis for near on 30 years. I've spent a lot of time around stoners from all different walks of life and watched hundreds of thousands of dollars (if not more) go into the black economy - most of the people I know who smoke are not interested in being arrested or having anything to do with the Police - in an ideal world my friends and I just pop down to the shops to grab a q - basically the same treatment as somebody who consumes alcohol gets. Very few smokers I know touch alcohol and we don't understand why we aren't treated equally. Why are we still living in the Reagan era when we have positive examples coming out of Colorado and Portugal? - nobody I know is asking for a reinvention of the wheel.

We are obviously in the middle of a pandemic, one that has already been costly in many ways. We all already know we are going to need economic recovery and that we need to create jobs. To me, this is a no-brainer - the cannabis trade already exists, it's just underground because the alcohol drinking politicians are being hypocritical and won't legalise it. Colorado is an excellent example in so many ways, but probably the most outstanding achievement is the amount of revenue the state has collected simply by bringing the black economy above ground.

All the people I know who use cannabis have their reasons - they're insomniacs and this helps sleep; for me, psych drugs don't work for me, this does; others use it for pain management and others, to come down from a heavy substance. The people I know who don't use, don't care. I have literally spoken to people from all walks of life - from ministers down to people who sleep rough in the CBD and not one person has said anything negative - some have declined to respond - the vast majority can't believe it's illegal especially when alcohol isn't.

This state has had double standards for a long time - it would be great to see some of these double standards become a thing of the past. As a result of covid we have the opportunity to shape this state. Money could be

taken out of the justice system and poured into the community support services - it worked well in Portugal - I don't see why it couldn't work here. Legalising cannabis has changed other communities around the world for the better; we don't need to reinvent the wheel, we just need a politician (or more) to champion the cause.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Lisa Peterson