

## Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Ms Mary Edwards

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

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

Individual

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

1/ state-sponsored supply of cannabis for recreational and medicinal use

2/ financial costs of ALL impacts of current approach to cannabis control compared with the revenue savings/increase of state-sponsored supply of cannabis

**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.,Other – please explain.

state-sponsored supply of cannabis would ensure quality and consistency of cannabis and would be taxed like alcohol and tobacco now to return revenue to the community

### YOUR SUBMISSION

**Submission:**

SUBMISSION TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

59th Parliament

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

On 29 May 2019 the Legislative Council agreed to the following motion:

That this House, requires the Legal and Social Issues Committee to inquire into, consider and report, by no later than March 2020, into the best means to —

- a) prevent young people and children from accessing and using cannabis in Victoria;
- b) protect public health and public safety in relation to the use of cannabis in Victoria;
- c) implement health education campaigns and programs to ensure children and young people are aware of the dangers of drug use, in particular, cannabis use;
- d) prevent criminal activity relating to the illegal cannabis trade in Victoria;

e) assess the health, mental health, and social impacts of cannabis use on people who use cannabis, their families and carers;

and further requires the Committee to assess models from international jurisdictions that have been successful in achieving these outcomes and consider how they may be adapted for Victoria.

## SUBMISSION BY MARY EDWARDS

While I can provide various peer-reviewed reports to support my comments I have not given details of them here. If the Committee wants them I'd be happy to provide them at a later date. Therefore my comments should be considered in that light.

d) prevent criminal activity relating to the illegal cannabis trade in Victoria;

The only way to prevent criminal activity in this matter is learning from history. Prohibition in the USA is a perfect case study. Prohibition created a crime bonanza and after some 13 years it was repealed. Countries around the world have sunk billions of dollars into the 'war on drugs' and crime has only thrived. Numerous countries and even multiple states in the USA itself now permit recreational uses of cannabis.

b) protect public health and public safety in relation to the use of cannabis in Victoria;

Once use of cannabis is legalised, and hopefully provided by state-sponsored suppliers, it is straight-forward to protect those few people for whom any drug can cause addiction problems. The public health issues related to cannabis use are far less than those associated with tobacco, alcohol and I'd go so far as to add sugar. However, focussing health resources onto those problems is straight-forward once cannabis uses is legal.

a) prevent young people and children from accessing and using cannabis in Victoria;

See comments at b/

c) implement health education campaigns and programs to ensure children and young people are aware of the dangers of drug use, in particular, cannabis

It is critical to legalise cannabis use so that public health campaigns can be legitimately focussed on the impacts of its use at the same time as warning about the problems of tobacco and alcohol. Any 15 year old can figure out the hypocrisy of having 2 legal drugs widely available and cannabis which is hidden from view but arguably less hazardous.

e) assess the health, mental health, and social impacts of cannabis use on people who use cannabis, their families and carers;

See a,b,c above.

the Committee to assess models from international jurisdictions that have been successful in achieving these outcomes and consider how they may be adapted for Victoria.

Look at Portugal and other jurisdictions please. Anything is better than the ludicrous amount of human and financial damage that is borne by our country with the current approach.

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

**FILE ATTACHMENTS**

**File1:** [5f4c9d3087f19-SUBMISSION TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.docx](#)

**File2:**

**File3:**

**Signature:**

Mary A Edwards

**SUBMISSION TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE**

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