

Mr Jamie Buono

CONTACT DETAILS

Phone: [REDACTED]

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Organisation Name:

Your Position/Title:

Address:

Suburb:

State: VIC

Postcode:

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Your age group:

21-30

What best describes your interest in our Inquiry?

(select all that apply) :

Public sector body Individual Advocacy body

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::

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

Do you think there should be restrictions on the use of cannabis?

(select all that apply) :

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.

I request the Committee publish my submission, but remove my name. I request the committee review this submission for confidential protection :

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YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

Firstly, I appreciate and welcome the governments open-mindedness to speak about the topic of Cannabis in our community.

After reading the Victoria Police submission, it is quite frightening to see so many spelling mistakes

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Jamie

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Yours sincerely

Legal and Social Issues Committee

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and grammatical errors in a published document from such a powerful governing body. The lack of scientific, evidence-based studies in their submission is a real red alert, many of the studies they used are outdated and do not cater for confounding variables. I encourage any research you undertake to be compared with research from jurisdictions such as; Uruguay (where weed has been legal since 2014, so longer than Colorado or Washington), California and The Netherlands. The fact that Victoria Police associate Cannabis use with with a risk in "increased falls" is such a stretch. From that point alone I can see that Victoria Police are really grasping at straws and desperate to maintain a negative stigma on Cannabis. Of course Cannabis use is one of the most prevalent drugs used among young people. It is one of the most accessible, most affordable, so consistent in making people feel better about themselves and improves their mood. As an educated "young person" (I am 24 years old) by Victoria Police's definition, I heavily dispute Victoria Police's submission and welcome an open debate with any Victoria Police representative on the back of all my experiences and research with the plant. The fact that Victoria Police are highlighting that mental health disorders are more common amongst young people that use Cannabis is quite deceiving. Victoria Police are portraying that by being young and using Cannabis you will get a mental health disorder (I acknowledge that in some cases this is possible), however this is not the case in all my experiences and from what I have seen in my own life and also researched.

The fact is that people already have a mental health disorder, whether it be depression or anxiety etc. Then, due to having this disorder they turn to drugs; alcohol, tobacco and cannabis are most prevalent as they are most accessible. So the point I am trying to make is that Cannabis does not give you a disorder, the data reads that mental health disorders are higher among Cannabis users because people turn to Cannabis to help them. It is actually the reverse of what Victoria Police are saying, mental health disorder comes first, then the Cannabis use comes second as a means of somebody trying to make themselves feel better again or self-medicate if you will.

Additionally, all the numbers used by Victoria Police in terms of road safety actually account for nothing. The fact that roadside drug tests do not measure impairment literally means that the tests mean nothing except THC is in the system. Yes, consuming Cannabis will affect your motor neurons and cognitive state for a few hours typically, yes you may feel slower and should not drive under the influence. But hours later you are fine to drive and not impaired. Caffeine for example lasts for 12 hours in our system. If you have a coffee at 2pm in the afternoon, are you going to feel super energetic and buzzing 12 hours later at 2am? No. Even though the caffeine is in your system, the effects have worn off. That's the exact same for Cannabis, except it can stay in your system for days/weeks. And, in experienced regular users, these effects wear off even faster, in under an hour in some cases depending on dosage, metabolism, tolerance and how regularly you use the drug. Victoria Police desperately needs to come up with an impairment test for drivers who are found with THC in their system, it truly is a crime that Police can fine you and you lose your license without driving impaired.

Cannabis should be legalized, regulated and cultivated by the Victorian Government. I have used Cannabis on almost a daily basis for 4 years. In this time I have gotten a Bachelor Degree, a Master's Degree and named Most Outstanding Graduating Student from my course, all whilst working 2 jobs (over 30 hours a week). I am not Superman. I know of many other people who are in the same boat as me, achieving a lot in life and being successful whilst being a heavy contributor to society and consuming Cannabis daily. If the plant is as bad as some people claim, then how have I been able to achieve all of this? Cannabis has so many benefits and it has vastly improved my productivity in my life, I now get a good nights sleep and am not anxious about small little things that should not worry me.

Legalize this plant for everyone to use, take the money out of the black-market and from drug dealers. Put all the money back into society via new schools, education programs and infrastructure. The state will be a much better, accepting and open environment for all.

Cannabis should be legalized not only for medical use but also for recreational use. The money that would be drained from crime gangs could be poured back into society via new schools, rehabilitation centers and roads. Cannabis is no more unsafe than tobacco, alcohol or even gluten when you consider just how many people have digestive issues nowadays which result in mental health disorders as gluten intolerances heavily affect the gut microbiome.

I am a medicinal cannabis patient, I work 2 jobs, I have undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, I heavily contribute to society and have never committed a single crime. However, it is disturbing that I am considered a criminal if I get behind the wheel of my car simply for having THC in my system. Having a small trace of THC in my system does NOT AT ALL indicate I am impaired. There is literally no science-based evidence to suggest that people are affected from THC hours after it being ingested. Medicinal cannabis has improved my quality of life drastically, I believe laws need to be changed to allow for more people to benefit off the plant just like I have. Cannabis can be regulated, taxed and quality controlled to optimize the lives of all Victorians. It is about time that the government moves with the times and adjusts the laws. I mean, after all, wasn't the use of Cannabis prohibited back in the 70's? We are only just learning about the plant now, so the prohibition decision was clearly made by people who were not very knowledgeable on the plant at all as it hadn't been well researched at the time and still isn't now.