

As a 17 year old student who's family has a history of psychosis related mental illnesses, I have never and likely will never use marijuana for the sake of my mental health. However it is my belief that marijuana should be legalised for domestic sale and individual use. Growing up in a rural area many of my peers began using marijuana at a young age. Studies show that marijuana use can have negative effects on memory and brain function when used in a developing brain. It is my belief that legalisation of marijuana could help contribute to better control of marijuana access, using fines to punish the sale of marijuana to underage buyers similar to alcohol or tobacco. Meaning it is more difficult for young people to access and use the drug. Studies have also shown that marijuana is significantly less harmful than alcohol and tobacco use. How does it make sense that two more harmful substances are legal while a less harmful substance is illegal and harshly punished? Legalisation of marijuana would allow for a more regulated and safe way of acquiring marijuana while also contributing to the economy. Legalisation of marijuana in the United States has had a huge positive effect on the local economies. By ensuring those who are selling marijuana are properly taxed and regulated the Victorian economy will benefit greatly. To conclude the legalisation of marijuana in Victoria would not make it more easy to get marijuana, if a person wants to illegally buy marijuana now it is not difficult to do so, legalisation would allow for marijuana to be better regulated. By limiting who has access, including fines for underage users similar to alcohol, and taxing its distribution, the government could effectively manage the legal sale of marijuana making a safer, more beneficial system that could protect young people from harmful effects of marijuana.