

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

████████████████████

Organisation Name:

Your Position/Title:

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

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

Individual

Do you think there should be restrictions on the use of cannabis? (select all that apply) :

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 have a lot to say on the subject of cannabis but I will try to make to succinct.

I am a 48 year old man.

I have used cannabis recreationally since I was in my late teens. I am very much pro legalization of cannabis use for both recreational and medicinal reasons.

I guess you could say my personal use of cannabis has evolved into a hybrid of medicinal and recreational use and as I will explain in my personal history.

I grew up in a fairly turbulent family and thus was left with a lot of trauma to deal with in my adulthood which I did not deal with but instead used drugs and alcohol to self medicate. Long story short, after an exploration of various drugs, it was the 90s I started using Heroin which was highly available at that time. I became addicted and spent a good 10 years of my life struggling with this issue. I went through rehabs, methadone, rapid detox, 12 step programs, psychologists , psychotherapists and finally came out the other end successful. Through all this and beyond overcoming this problem I would occasionally use cannabis as a circuit breaker for when I craved to use opiates. It was highly successful and I felt cannabis was such a mild drug compared to heroin or prescription opiates that I was pretty safe in taking it even though some therapists and therapies advocated complete abstinence. I then started a job as a Pharmacy Technician in a company that fills prescriptions for hospitals and part of that job is making bulk orders of various opiates (fentanyl , morphine ect) . My resolve was good though and I never attempted to steal any of these drugs from my workplace. I have been at my current employer for over 20 years now , still enjoy my job and I think part of my stability is due to my semi - regular use of cannabis as it gives me an outlet that is basically harmless. I also suffer insomnia on a regular basis and find cannabis is the least harmful thing I can take to get my a good nights sleep. As far as after effects of drugs I can also say that cannabis is the only substance I've ever taken (and I've tried all drugs) that has no serious next day "hangover". These days I barely ever even smoke cannabis, I usually ingest it as an edible that I make myself.

I was also caught by the police when I was 19 with a small amount of cannabis and was given a conviction, this effected my self esteem and limited some of the possible career paths I may have chosen. It affected my self esteem and self worth deeply at the time.

Regarding cultivation of cannabis and the issue of legalizing personal cultivation I am very much in favor of allowing citizens to “grow their own” and have a limit on the amount of plants they grow. I have personally grown a single plant on occasion for my own use and feel it is a much healthier and safer avenue to procure your own cannabis as you know what was put onto the plant when it was grown. I understand that if cannabis was legalised that there are various models , some not including home grow options and I think that would be a huge mistake. This should not become a thing where it is taken over by big pharma and big corporations only. Personal growing needs to be part of the legalization picture. Cannabis is such a harmless substance even compared to alcohol, a drug revered by our nation that kills many people each year. I believe the criminalization and demonization of cannabis to be a major travesty in this country and the rest of the world. I would also like to advocate the cannabis club style legalization that occurred in Spain, please look into that.

Legalization and some form of taxation will also bring many jobs and much money to our economy. Victoria could become a tourist destination as well with a cannabis industry, international tourists would flock here. Now with COVID that might not be a thing for a while but we could become the cannabis Mecca for people from the rest of Australia to come visit .I know weed and potheads have a less than optimal image, but those stereotypes are not the reality of the majority of people who use this drug. This drug doesn't cause physical dependence like most others , it's a pleasant mild high thst doesn't make people want to get into fights or sexually assault people like alcohol does.

Please please change these laws to something that approaches sanity and equity. I would also like to see previous cannabis convictions quashed. If fear is what is holding someone back to make this change, I say there is nothing to fear , it has been a propoganda of racist origins that began in the United States that has permeated the world. Let's be the leader in this country at least. Thailand is already beating us with its legalization, let's not be that stick in the mud nation that takes forever to catch up. Victoria viva Legalization!!!!

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

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