

## Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

### 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:**

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

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

Individual

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

### YOUR SUBMISSION

I am currently living in QLD but I lived in Melbourne for some time.

I have a recorded criminal conviction over 7 grams of cannabis, as it was purchased over a market on the "darkweb" (what I considered the safest option of buying cannabis as there are checks and balances such as ratings systems like eBay where buyers can leave reviews. Not to mention avoiding the potential of danger in a face-to-face drug deal).

It was considered by the prosecution and agreed by the judge that I had "supplied" the drug to myself via the Australia Post network, so I now have a recorded criminal conviction for the next 7-10 years for "Supply of a dangerous drug" that has cost me 3 jobs I would have received otherwise, including a job at a call centre for the ATO where I had already worked and had been promised the position pending the result of my police check, which failed of course .

I WANT to be a contributing member of society but I am literally impeded by becoming one over 7 grams of cannabis, That criminal charge has caused me far, far more significant emotional, social and financial damage than cannabis ever did.

Smoking cannabis never made me seriously contemplate suicide or cause me to lose a job. But getting a 5-10 year conviction recorded as "supply of a dangerous drug" did. I'm sure the judge who gave me that sentence went home to a glass of wine and didn't think of the irony for even an instant, let alone the destruction he caused to my life. What was most striking to me was the casual way in which it was done. "\$100 fine and a stain on his record for up to a decade. Next case". If it was such a serious offense, why was the fine so small? If it was such an insignificant offense, why did my life have to get wrecked?

I'm by no means saying cannabis is harmless, it shouldn't be available to anyone under 18, similar to how we treat alcohol. There are issues associated with it such as addiction, just like alcohol. People should definitely not drive impaired (the cannabis testing kits reliability is another conversation). Those are issues we should educate people about in a manner in line with reality and not just scaremongering and hypocrisy. If cannabis were legal, there would finally be regulations on the sale of cannabis to minors. The way things are at the moment, drug dealers don't check ID. Drug dealers would also lose a huge income stream if cannabis was legalised and properly controlled, so if you want to give a blow to organised crime, that's how you would do it.

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

If cannabis were legal, there would finally be regulations on the sale of cannabis to minors. The way things are at the moment, drug dealers don't check ID. Drug dealers would also lose a huge income stream if cannabis was legalised and properly controlled, so if you want to give a blow to organised crime, that's how you would do it.

**Select all that apply.**

**Do you think there should there 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.