

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Mr Michael Treacy

Organisation Name:Family Council of Victoria

Your position or role: President

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::

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

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

other – please explain

The dangers faced by parents for their children concerning drug use and exploitation of young people by drug dealers.

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

No

Select all that apply. Do you think there should be restrictions on the use of cannabis? :

Sale should remain illegal. , Personal use of cannabis should remain illegal.

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

No

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

Signature:

Michael Treacy

Inquiry into the Use of Cannabis in Victoria

The promotion of cannabis use in society by alternative groups and in social media are a source of concern as it does not address the harmful effects of cannabis use to a person's health and the psychotic episodes that have caused numerous accidents and death on our roads, often involving innocent people. One such individual who had been using cannabis for 24 hours, drove on the wrong side of a highway and killed a family of 7 in another vehicle during a psychotic state of altered perception. It appears that our roads are becoming more treacherous with drug affected people driving under such dangerous circumstances. Police are well aware of the outcomes of drug-affected driving, however, this information seems to be dismissed by users and promoters of legalising cannabis.

To protect public health and public safety, I would recommend that the Education Department take an active part in condemning all drug use including cannabis with an emphasis on actual examples of the destruction of life and mental impairment along with compromised health outcomes. This should begin at primary school level, as appropriate, and continue into secondary school with higher degrees of the awareness of how this drug has led many to loose their jobs, career path and led to family breakdown and violence due to mental impairment. Also, it cannot be disregarded that cannabis use has been a gateway drug for many to move on to harder and more dangerous drug use.

More police resources are needed in surveillance where house cropping and forest crops are thriving and providing illegal income to criminal groups. In relation to police work, a campaign to alert police about suspicious activity would assist in the detection of cannabis growers in residential areas. Police could also be deployed in a major push to infiltrate cannabis cartels and distributors in an effort to reduce availability. The purchase of hydroponic equipment should be by licensed growers of legitimate legal crops and not be available to potential cannabis growers.

So called 'medical marijuana' and growing plants for personal use should be declared a public health risk which is unacceptable and illegal. This inquiry should recognise that such attempts to legalise this drug in any form would compromise all efforts to protect Victorians against accelerated cannabis use and would create a higher burden for health departments.

In conclusion, a tougher and more proactive stance should be taken by the Victorian government in dealing with the drug problem. Other jurisdictions may have their own plans or lack of plans for dealing with the problem, but Victoria needs to recognise that compromise is not the solution and every effort is required to eliminate the increasing use of cannabis.

Michael Treacy
President,
Family Council of Victoria