

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

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

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

other – please explain Editor of Biotech Daily reporting on “medical marijuana” companies

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

Disentangling marijuana (and potentially other intoxicants) from the black market, grey market and criminal sphere.

YOUR SUBMISSION

I have been reporting on the so-called ‘Medical Marijuana’ companies in my publication Biotech Daily for several years.

Some of the companies are quite clearly doing serious work to advance forms of marijuana for established illnesses.

Some companies have merely jumped on the bandwagon to make money from the ASX. Others claim to be working on medical marijuana but have an eye on the recreational market.

That Israel and the US have a 50 year and 20 year jump on Australia in terms of marijuana research and development, is interesting to say the least.

The inevitable end-result will be that either there is a regulated market in medical marijuana being undercut by a black market in recreational marijuana or the Government can allow a regulated recreational marijuana market to co-exist with a regulated medical marijuana market.

The idea that someone with PTSD, cancer, multiple sclerosis or anxiety issues should pay \$400 a month (one company said it could charge \$10, 000 a year) for something they can grow at home is patently ludicrous.

Not everyone can afford the prices currently charged - or envisaged by the medical marijuana companies - for glorified forms of what they could grow at home if they did not fear arrest and a criminal record.

Some companies have even said they are looking forward to having marijuana on the PBS ! So the taxpayer would then subsidize those who are deemed suitable patients, rather than bring down the cost of goods by making the medical marijuana market compete with the recreational marijuana market.

For non-marijuana-naive patients, especially those with debilitating illnesses, there should be already - as part of the regulated medical marijuana legislation - an allowance for the person or their designated carer to grow up to 10 or 12 “viable” marijuana plants a year. I am told that marijuana plants are not all equal and that (like in some other areas of society) the males are useless and only the females have any value.

A similar regime of up to 10-12 viable plants a year should apply for the recreational market.

That would ensure that the cost of goods for the actual real GMP medical marijuana market was reduced

and the final product - be it a tablet, capsule, mouth spray or liquid - was as cheap as possible.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

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.