

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, Education, Mental health, Young people and children, Social impacts, 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

In response to each of the topics as noted in the Terms of Reference:

a] prevent young people and children from accessing and using cannabis in Victoria

- The sale and use of cannabis should be regulated in a similar manner to the sale and use of alcohol with regards to young people and children. An 18+ age restriction and the legalisation of use for those under 18 with parental/guardian supervision and permission are appropriate.

b] protect public health and public safety in relation to the use of cannabis in Victoria

- For smoking/vaping usage of cannabis the standard regulations around cigarette smoking/vaping relating to required distance from hospital entry & schools, smoke-free dining areas, prohibition of smoking/vaping indoors and dedicated smoking/vaping areas should be employed.

c] implement health education campaigns and programs to ensure children and young people are aware of the dangers of drug use, in particular, cannabis use

- There should be education programs tailored to those using cannabis recreationally, medically and for young people/children put in place for public education as to the health risks of using cannabis specifically ie. information specific to cannabis and not simply within a broad umbrella of 'drug education.'

d] prevent criminal activity relating to the illegal cannabis trade in Victoria

- Regulation and legalisation of cannabis sale and usage will obviously have an impact on the illegal cannabis trade as most, if not all, businesses will prefer to produce/process/distribute cannabis legally simply to avoid prosecution. I suggest the registration and licensing of businesses producing and/or processing cannabis to ensure ethical, exploitation-free production as well as standard transparency required of any business engaged in producing restricted substances such as alcohol. I also propose an amnesty period of twelve to twenty-four months for those presently engaged in the illegal cannabis trade before any legal action should be taken against those who continue to produce/process cannabis without a licence - giving adequate time to register for an ABN, apply for licensing etc.

e] assess the health, mental health, and social impacts of cannabis use on people who use cannabis, their families and carers

- For patients using cannabis under medical prescription, the prescribing doctor should continue to super-

wise the patient's physical and mental health during the period of use. For those using cannabis recreationally, programs offering support to those with concerns about their mental or physical health should be available through their gp and advertised otherwise online, in medical setting and in community spaces in the same way that standard drug and alcohol programs are currently.

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 decriminalised.

(Decriminalised: there are no criminal or civil penalties instead a person is referred to a drug diversion program or other health/ treatment service), Personal use of cannabis should be legal. Sale of cannabis should be legal and regulated. Cultivation of cannabis for personal use should be legal. There should be no restrictions.