

## Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Jeremy Bornstein

### 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:**

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

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

Individual

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

### YOUR SUBMISSION

My biggest concern is that prohibition inherently creates and sustains violent criminal organizations because the groups that arise to satisfy demand exist outside the legal system and have powerful incentives to hide their operations.

Another major concern with respect to prohibition is that people who need medical help may be reluctant to seek it out because they fear legal repercussions from their illegal drug use.

Prohibition also ensures that consumers have no recourse with respect to suppliers, and are exposed to unexpected and potentially dangerous adulterants.

Especially given the evidence that cannabis use has significant health benefits in many cases, I believe the public sector has a moral responsibility to reduce harm by legislating cannabis cultivation and sale to be legal, regulated, and taxed activities.

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

I believe that in Victoria we should be eager to learn from other jurisdictions around the world who have re-sponsibly changed their legal frameworks for dealing with cannabis. In particular, policies from the US states of Colorado, Washington, and California can be instructive for us; they have not only seen no increased crime but have also realized considerable tax revenues from the sale of cannabis, which can be used directly for education, abuse prevention, and other harm reduction programs.

I want to emphasize that I am not an expert in these policies or legal issues. I'm writing because I believe that the historical prohibition of cannabis causes active harm to our society and its members, and I am happy to support a new framework which would be an improvement for our collective health, safety, and well-being.

**Select all that apply.**

**Do you think there should 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.