

## Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

**Organisation Name:**  
**Your position or role:**

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

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

Individual

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

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

Personal use of cannabis should be legal. ,Cultivation of cannabis for personal use should be legal.,There should be no restrictions. ,Other – please explain.

It is a natural, god-given plant. It has been amongst us since ancient times.

While it would be possible, and quite possibly lucrative, to legalise and regulate sales, it's unnecessary and quite honestly inhumane.

Remove any restrictions surrounding the cultivation, sale, possession and use of cannabis and let us the people use it how and when we please. It's a harmless plant, why ruin lives purely for using it?

### YOUR SUBMISSION

**Submission:**

I'm a daily cannabis user, as are a lot of my friends and family.

As it is right now, cannabis is easier for an underage child to access than it is for them to purchase tobacco or alcohol. Have you ever heard of a drug dealer asking for I.D.? It doesn't happen.

Having nowhere to purchase legal cannabis forces them to turn to the black market, which is completely unregulated and uncontrolled. It puts them at risk of purchasing possibly 'laced' or moldy cannabis, creating a risk of harm that should not exist with cannabis.

It also forces children and adults alike to interact and deal with criminals and harder drug dealers that they wouldn't generally associate themselves with. A level of risk that shouldn't be present when trying to access cannabis.

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

It is a natural plant.

God-given, it's a magnificent, healing plant.

Shouldn't ever have been restricted in the first place.

### FILE ATTACHMENTS

**File1:** [5ed2c6e9dbfa9-Parliament Cannabis Enquiry Submission.pdf](#)

**File2:**

**File3:**

**Signature:**



On 30 May 2019, the Legislative Council agreed to the following motion:

That this house, requires the Legal and Social Issues Committee to inquire into, consider and report, by no later than 2 March 2020, into the best means to —

- a. prevent young people and children from accessing and using cannabis in Victoria;

I'm a daily cannabis user, as are a lot of my friends and family.

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Having nowhere to purchase legal cannabis forces them to turn to the black market, which is completely unregulated and uncontrolled. It puts them at risk of purchasing possibly 'laced' or moldy cannabis, creating a risk of harm that should not exist with cannabis.

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- b. protect public health and public safety in relation to the use of cannabis in Victoria;

Most cannabis users get 'high' in the privacy of their own homes, generally to wind down at the end of the day. Cannabis has no violent tendencies unlike alcohol, in fact it has the complete opposite effect, often calming one down.

Honestly, fairly stumped by this one. From where I'm standing, the only possible public health and safety risk would be if a criminal saw somebody using cannabis in public and proceeded to attack them, stealing their cannabis.

Possibly driving related issues, but that's another discussion.

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- 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;

In order to provide accurate educational information on a topic, one must first know and fully understand said topic.

Judging by not only Victoria's but all of Australia's reaction as a whole to cannabis over the past 90 years, I would say we either do not understand or believe the facts surrounding cannabis.

That being said, a solid education system surrounding drug use and risks, specifically cannabis, is critical to the health and safety of not only current users, but future users.

But, more research and wider acceptance of cannabis is necessary before any education on the topic would be utilised by the public. The boy who cried wolf, right?

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

As I mentioned before, when addressing the prevention of young people accessing cannabis, people having to turn to the black market is a major cause of criminal risk and involvement. The main reason criminals are associated with cannabis, is because cannabis is illegal and restricted. Take that factor out of the play, they're smoking and selling an equivalent to tobacco. In turn creating a safe, legal and lucrative industry out of what was unrightfully a harmful and illegal criminal activity.

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

In case it hasn't been clear enough, it's proven to be relatively difficult to assess things when they're suppressed.

The most we have to go on currently is statistics and reports from other countries that have already legalised and/or decriminalised cannabis. Until we join them, any reports or inquiries into the use, health and impact of cannabis in Australia will be limited and most likely inaccurate.