

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, Education, Public health, Public safety, Criminal activity, Mental health, Social impacts

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

Individual

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

Economic impacts

Select all that apply. Do you think there should 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.

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

a. The current market for Cannabis is unregulated and illegal. This means any age group can access up to ounces of Cannabis. The regulation and legalisation of Cannabis is able to reduce underage cannabis use, through setting laws ensuring over 18s can purchase legal Cannabis. This won't completely stop underage use, but it will reduce numbers through harsh penalties for distributing cannabis to minors like Canada has done. Canada has also had success in decreasing underage cannabis use. After legalisation age groups between 15-17 "nearly halved, from 19.8% to 10.4%."(<https://www.drugfoundation.org.nz/news-media-and-events/canada-whats-been-happening-since-legalisation/>)

b. Protecting public health is vital with the legalisation of cannabis. Current Australian Cannabis is known to contain PGR (plant growth regulators) which essentially means the cannabis has been sprayed with toxic chemicals. PGR is especially prevalent in low quality weed, which is consumed quite regularly. In relation to public safety, I've interpreted it as impacts of a person who is high on public safety. This is my opinion, but I don't associate cannabis use with being a nuisance on a Saturday night like alcohol or violence associated with alcohol. Compared to Alcohol when I'm high I just want to watch the footy and smoke with mates and order Pizzas. The most common fact and reassuring fact about Marijuana use is that no-one has ever died from a direct Cannabis overdose

c. implement health education campaigns and programs to ensure children and young people are I believe there needs to be education programs for different age groups. For instance a Cannabis education program aimed at 30+ to help change perceptions. My interactions with my parents age group (50-55) have made me believe their Cannabis knowledge is deeply flawed. The education will need to involve providing facts about the many positives such as its medical uses. Also that it isn't as dangerous as alcohol, which in itself causes deaths every day through liver cancer and various other diseases that are associated with alcohol

use

The second form of education is under the age of 14. This program should be aimed at informing children of the possible dangerous impacts that occur and problems that can occur with cannabis use at a young age like psychosis. When I was in primary school, weed was condemned in the same category as heroin and various methamphetamines, which simply isn't the case.

d. "New Frontier estimates that the total legal and illegal Australian pot market is worth between \$4.6 billion and \$6.3 billion." With Victrola comfortably leading.(<https://finfeed.com/opinion/the-420-report/australia-missing-out-55b-pot-market/> This is a ridiculous amount of money that is ending up in criminals pockets. The legalisation of Cannabis will allow industry standards and producers will be able to benefit from economies of scale, which the illegal trade cannot. This will mean that government regulated suppliers will be able to produce cheaper and higher quality weed, still with tax included in the price as there is less people in the supply chain. Prohibition has never been successful in western civilisation it is relatively easy for anyone to source illegal weed.

e. The health of cannabis users will be significantly improved after legalisation because there will only be licensed distributors and no PGR weed. Mental health may improve as medicinal cannabis has been life changing in some families. Medicinal Cannabis is a whole other topic but the health impacts of it are huge. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNT8Zo_sfwoz) The impacts of cannabis has profoundly changed this families life. Social impacts would be unknown as each city has different values.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

Possibly the most valuable point is the economic benefit from legalisation. "Colorado has now generated more than \$1 billion (usd) in total state revenue"(<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/06/12/colorado-passes-1-billion-in-marijuana-state-revenue.html>) While this took 5 years Colorado has a 5th of Australia's population Since May 2019 their Marijuana sales were \$6 Billion usd.

The Marijuana industry will create thousands of stable jobs. Look at the alcohol industry which provides thousands of jobs and also state billions of state revenue. However, Alcohol is a lot more dangerous. Coming out of a global recession and the highest unemployment rates in years. The legalisation of Cannabis will provide jobs and much needed consumption in the economy. ie tourism and less unemployment payments.

Another economic point is the amount the Government spends on preventing cannabis use yearly which is around \$1.1 billion.

Also the reduction of the strain on the corrections sector

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1: [5ed33218b65a7-pgr3-213x300.png](#)

File2:

File3:

Signature:



The Toxic Chemicals in Use on PGR Weed

LC LSC Inquiry into Use
of Cannabis in Victoria
Submission 326

Daminozide
(ALAR)



Paclobutrazol
(PBZ)

- produces carcinogenic
nitrosamines when combusted

Chlormequat

Telltale Signs:

- Indistinct smell/lack of aroma
(can also smell like ammonia)
- Clumpy, dense buds
- Thick stems
- Brown Hairs

Health Consequences Include:

- Liver damage
- Infertility
- Risk of Cancer

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