

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::

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

The impacts of the types of cannabis to be made available for sale.

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.,There should be no restrictions.

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

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

Much in the same way that stringent laws and procedures prevents and minimises the sale of alcohol to minors, legalisation of cannabis sales SHOULD do the same. An example:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/12/11/following-marijuana-legalization-teen-drug-use-is-down-in-colorado/>

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

Also seen overseas, an increase in cannabis use leads to a decrease in more harmful substances, such as alcohol: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/alcohol-consumption-drops-with-cannabis-legalization-abound-300883954.html>

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

Implementation of education campaigns is crucial, given the proclivity of cannabis to cause problems to young people: <https://www.psychiatryadvisor.com/home/topics/addiction/cannabis-use-disorder/cannabis-induced-psychosis-in-teenagers-and-young-adults-risk-factors-detection-management/>

Part of this strategy could also be set an age for legal purchase higher than that of alcohol, to say 21 or 25, however I would let data from other countries drive this idea.

-prevent criminal activity relating to the illegal cannabis trade in Victoria

Legalisation of cannabis has been proven to reduce crime rates:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jan/14/legal-marijuana-medical-use-crime-rate-plummets-us-study>

<http://ftp.iza.org/dp10522.pdf>

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

The extra tax funds raised from the legal sale of cannabis can be used on the negative aspects of an increase in cannabis consumption. The money saved from policing resources can also be put towards positive measures like this.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

Even though I've had several opportunities, I've never actually used cannabis, however I have heard many anecdotes, and have read some research on the topic. I'm wholly for legalisation, provided it is done in a sensible manner that mitigates some of the negative aspects of an increase in cannabis use (such as affects caused by strains that alter CBD/THC ratios, and the impacts on young people's brains). The positives of legalisation most certainly appear to outweigh the negatives. It is also important to consider the origins of criminalisation of drug use in our country, namely racism:

<https://www.sydneycriminallawyers.com.au/blog/the-implicit-racism-in-the-war-on-drugs/>

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

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