

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

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

Individual

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

Taxation, industry opportunities, plain packaging laws,

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.

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

If society accepts, but controls the sale and consumption and use of alcohol, cigarettes and tobacco, could the same controls not be put in place for cannabis?

As alcohol and cigarettes are taxed, so could cannabis. And a portion of the proceeds could be put back into drug rehabilitation programmes, for the more destructive substances still available on the black market.

As with cigarettes, plain packaging laws for cannabis could provide clear, accurate information, which would help dispel some of the myths of cannabis and its usage. This plain packaging may also assist with steering potential cannabis users away from the substance, as it does with cigarettes.

Permitting the sale and use of cannabis would also severely reduce its street price, and if the price is reduced enough, in some cases force some black market dealers out of business.

Continuing to criminalise cannabis users may saddle them with a conviction, which may prevent them from participating in specific workplaces and industries.

Permitting, but controlling and taxing cannabis sales and consumption, would also provide the following benefits to the state.

1. Reduce pressure on criminal courts for minor offences
2. Provide the state a revenue stream - a portion of which could be channeled into rehabilitation programs
3. Reduce overall crime rates - both for buyers and sellers of this currently restricted substance.
4. Allow people the opportunity to reach their potential, by working in industries and organisations that

currently have a 'no criminal record' requirement.

5. Dispel some of the myths surrounding the production, sale or consumption of this substance.
6. Open new avenues for agricultural industries in growing a controlled substance.

Lastly, Parliament should as part of this package consider the removal of past criminal convictions of cannabis specific offences. This ensures all persons are able to fully participate in the workforce/industry of their choosing.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature: