

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

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

Individual

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

General Health

Pain management

Sleep regulation

**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:**

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

Cannabis should not be used by those under 21 (unless they have particular medical conditions that could potentially benefit them if dosed, administered and monitored correctly.) Those wishing to use cannabis medically or recreationally can benefit from specific strains at specific quantities. There is an urgent need for ensuring quality and authenticity of plant material.

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

Similar restrictions must be in place for cannabis, just like tobacco. No smoking in cafes, under closed areas, in parks, bus stops etc.

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

Cannabis use is not dangerous, given the brain has fully developed. Children should be aware of this information. Children need to be educated about this topic as opposed to listing it as a "drug", which encourages children that rebel to engage at earlier stages in life. Cannabis is more commonly available at schools than anywhere else. This is a problem, because the material is not regulated at all, therefore children will continue to try these substances, however are unaware of what they are using - I am certain that there are many synthetic varieties going around, which causes many more health and mental problems than regulated cannabis could ever do. The problem with this, is that kids are unaware of what effects they should be feeling from cannabis, therefore would fail to identify whether they have purchased (or been given) plant

matter, or plant matter coated in chemicals. Education is crucial. Just like alcohol is not recommended for a developing brain, neither is cannabis. We need to focus on spreading the correct information, and keeping everyone safe, as well as safe-guarding the futures and mental health of many kids.

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

There is a need, therefore there will be a supply. If cannabis is legalised and regulated, criminal activity will inevitably drop.

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

Cannabis has been proven to assist and improve many conditions, both mental health and physical. Alcohol on the other hand - not so much, and it reacts with most medication, yet, it is legal. Therefore, I'd like to see a change in cannabis legalisation, as I am aware of the many ways cannabis is able to benefit those with many serious health conditions. We need to ensure the right information is spread and everyone is educated about this plant. People should also have the ability to discuss this plant without being seen as a 'drug user', because isn't everyone then? Those who take panadol, antibiotics, anti-inflammatory meds, etc, are not labelled as drug users, simply because these drugs are LEGAL. Cannabis really needs to be seen for what it is - a plant with medicinal qualities, that can greatly improve the lives of many, IF regulated and quality is ensured.

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

Please keep an open mind and educate yourselves as much as possible.

We cannot change this world without listening, and challenging our past decisions and understanding about how things work and should be.

Let's create a better, more educated future (plus new jobs and growth to the Australian economy).

**FILE ATTACHMENTS**

**File1:**

**File2:**

**File3:**

**Signature:**

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