

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::

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

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:

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1: [5f2f40b4508cb-submission.pdf](#)

File2: [5f2f40b4514b0-submission.docx](#)

File3:

Signature:



9 Aug 2020

To the Parliament of Victoria

Submission for: Inquiry into the use of cannabis in Victoria:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry into the use of cannabis in Victoria. There is currently a lot of wasted resources in the field of policing and managing cannabis because it encourages black market activity by a large percentage of people that simply want to enjoy it in moderation and innocent patients that require cannabis to treat their ailments and medical conditions.

If we look around the world there is a lot of good examples of countries that have managed to legalize or decriminalize cannabis and make it work for the betterment of the community and economy. We can model from where countries have been able to direct these resources to people that really need them, and at the same time create a new industry and create local jobs

In a post COVID 19 world, this would be extremely beneficial and not only give the state of Victoria a boost in the short term but also provide a longer term benefit for everyone.

I would like to provide a response to some of the Terms of Reference, and will do so as short form bullet points for your consideration:

(A) Prevent young people and children from accessing and using cannabis in Victoria

- Legalise cannabis sales for adults (21 years and over)
- Enforce proof of age at the point of sale
- Advertising and packaging of cannabis products to be regulated to prevent branding and appeal targeted towards teenagers.
- Similar to alcohol, cigarettes and pharmaceutical products, Shops and/or distribution points should be made aware of the implications and ensure cannabis products are kept out of reach of children.
- These will all need to be a part of cannabis education campaigns to educate the community.

(B) Protect public health and public safety in relation to the use of cannabis in Victoria

- Cannabis cultivation and manufacturing to be regulated
- Remove medical cannabis approval bottleneck and make it affordable for those that benefit from it.

- Implement policies such as – the use and cultivation in private residences within personal quantities, ban cannabis use in public, ban cannabis use around children, ban driving under the influence of cannabis, and only having licensed establishments for cannabis sales and consumption
- Serving size and potency standardization to be regulated and monitored.

(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

- As noted above in (A), education and public awareness campaigns should be considered to inform the public on the effects and risks associated with cannabis use. This would be in a similar vein to that of cigarettes and alcohol and in addition to any public campaigns, it could also be taught as part of the school curriculum.

(D) Prevent criminal activity relating to the illegal cannabis trade in Victoria

- By reducing the demand for cannabis products in the blackmarket, illegal trade will potentially be minimised.
- Legalising medical cannabis and having more readily available products would ensure patients do not risk breaking the law to source treatment for their ailments

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