

## Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Mr Mark Ingram

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

**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. ,Other – please explain.

Cannabis should be classified the same as alcohol regarding use, sale, age restrictions, safety, support, business opportunity, taxation etc.

### YOUR SUBMISSION

#### **Submission:**

Cannabis is already in use by a massive percentage of the population. I have rarely met a person who has not tried it, or does not use it semi-regularly. Cannabis is the least harmful 'drug' available, including alcohol, over-the-counter pharmaceuticals such as opioids, and especially when compared to tobacco, which is undeniably far more deadly. There are numerous medical benefits, both mental and physical, in the use of cannabis. But like any altering substance it does require education and legal limitations (ie children) and should therefore be classified similarly to alcohol as free-to-use for mature adults.

Growing and selling it should be no different than growing and selling food from your garden. This is a natural plant. Making it illegal is incredibly immature, dangerous, and detrimental to society.

Legalisation offers enormous opportunities for small (and large) businesses to cultivate and sell to the public, for a great variety of products to be developed, manufactured and exported, it will generate enormous job opportunities, particularly for lesser educated and struggling citizens, allows self-employment opportunities, and would benefit society overall. There is far fewer risks of violent crime as a result of its use, unlike alcohol and other illicit substances.

One need only look to Canada and US states like Colorado as the benchmark for the complete legalisation benefits to society and individuals across the board.

Australia is falling embarrassingly behind on this issue and should position itself as a world leader in the endless benefits legalising cannabis will certainly offer both citizens and the country at large.

It is well past time for the full and immediate legalisation of cannabis across the board.

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

### FILE ATTACHMENTS

**File1:**

**File2:**

**File3:**

**Signature:**

Mark Ingram