

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

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

Individual

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

Medical research, entrenched cultures of drug use

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.

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

When I went to high school in rural Victoria, cannabis was more prevalent at our highschool than alcohol. By the time I was 17 I was smoking it every single day, frequently skipping school to go and get high. I knew a consistent network of other smokers around the school, (to my knowledge most of the boys I went to school with were regular weed smokers) who mostly had a pretty romantic, inaccurate idea of drug use. We would often try and initiate other boys into the tradition of regular weed smoking, and most of us didn't realise how mentally damaging the habit was until after year 12 finished. The mystique created by illegality, the obviously unrealistic information shared by teachers and authorities, the lack of a regulatory framework (e.g. you need to be 18 to buy booze, but illegal drug dealers don't care how old you are) for distribution and sale all exacerbated the dangers involved with weed smoking, helped it to become attached to a popular culture of youthful rebellion, and made it easier to fall into an everyday habit. My attitudes to cannabis smoking are now overwhelmingly negative; I've seen and felt in my own mind and lung the damage that it can do. But paradoxical as it might sound, legalising the drug would probably reduce the various social harms involved with its use. Cannabis smoking ought to be addressed by public health strategies similar to those in place for tobacco, which has for the most part been successfully demonized and demystified.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

