

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Mr Mitchell Brien

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::

Education, Social impacts, Mental health, Accessing and using cannabis, Public health, Public safety, 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?

Potential tax revenue from a regulated, safe industry

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:

I am not a drug user in any sense of the word - I do not drink, smoke or take any recreational drugs. In that context, I am fully in support of legalising the well-regulated production and sale of cannabis in Victoria. Where cannabis has been legalised globally, there have been reductions in crime, as there is no longer incentive for drug cartels to continue operating, so public safety is demonstrably improved in that regard. Decriminalisation has also shown a drop in the use of other, more harmful drugs. If anything, cannabis is a gateway drug out of addiction, not into it. Medical uses of cannabis are shockingly under-explored and researched due to the classification as an illegal product and a global stigma - allowing the production and sale of cannabis in Victoria could unlock a huge area of scientific and medical research that we will be able to lead the world in. The missed opportunity in taxing cannabis production and sale has been demonstrated to be on the scale of hundreds of millions of dollars - Colorado recently surpassed US\$1B in cannabis tax revenue from six years of legalisation.

If there is any desire in Victorian Parliament to enact evidence-based policy, it only makes sense to legalise cannabis, tax it at a similar scale to alcohol or drugs, and use part of the tax revenue for education programs and addiction support for drugs, alcohol, tobacco and gambling.

People are already using and growing cannabis in Victoria, and the whole system is in the hands of people who are openly flouting the law at best, and are members of violent cartels at worst.

Legalisation means safety, even-handed regulation, understanding, scientific research and progress, which I hope are all ideals that Victoria strives for.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Mitchell Brien