

## 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::**

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

**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.

### YOUR SUBMISSION

#### Submission:

To the Legal and Social Issues Committee,

The criminalisation of cannabis is an infringement on the rights of all Australians. The plant offers many medicinal uses, and while slowly being recognised, they are still much too hard to access for those that need them. Other than in medicinal settings, an Australian should have the right to use the substance in the comfort of their own home recreationally. Many of the issues that may arise from the recreational use of cannabis can be attributed to the criminalisation of the plant. The prohibition of alcohol has not worked in the past, and the prohibition of cannabis is not working today.

Response to the Terms of Reference

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

Many young Australians are already using cannabis, regardless of its illegality.

By legalising and regulating the sale of cannabis, age restrictions can be put into place (just like alcohol and tobacco) to prevent young people from having access to the drug. This would reduce the risk to young people as proof of age would have to be shown at the point of sale, and it would also shift control out of the black market. In the current day, young people are able to access cannabis in a completely unregulated market.

A common and fair fear is that the use of cannabis would increase among young people if the drug was legalised. Recent reports based on Canada's recent legalisation indicate it does not necessarily encourage adolescent use.

(<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2737637?guestAccessKey=5e4e41eb-ec96-4641-86f9->

[b5c89cc7cc48&utm\\_source=For\\_The\\_Media&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=ftm\\_links&utm\\_content=tf&](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2737637?guestAccessKey=5e4e41eb-ec96-4641-86f9-b5c89cc7cc48&utm_source=For_The_Media&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=ftm_links&utm_content=tf&)

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

A survey conducted by the University of Sydney has reported that less than 3% of medical cannabis users sourced cannabis legally between 2018 - 2019. This means the rest of patients are relying on the black market for their medicinal needs. This shows that people that need cannabis are simply not able to access it enough legally and are at risk of legal issues for simply obtaining the medicine they need.

(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;

While cannabis use may not have as severe health effects as other drugs (both legal and illegal), it is obviously not without risks. Educational campaigns need to be provided to both adolescents and adults regarding how the drug may affect physical and mental and health, as well as harm reduction information on how to make the use of the drug safer.

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

### **FILE ATTACHMENTS**

**File1:**

**File2:**

**File3:**

**Signature:**

