

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::

Accessing and using cannabis, Education, Public health, Mental health, Public safety, Young people and children, 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 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., Other – please explain.

Medical coverage for medical cannabis

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

I have been using cannabis since my early 20s. A recreational user initially. In my mid 20s I had an injury to my neck which caused nerves in my c6-c7 c7-8 and c8-t1 to pinch and cause excruciating pain daily for about 6 months until I was finally able to get an operation. The damage caused by this injury resulted in muscular dystrophy being diagnosed on my left hand. Subsequently, I have lost basic functions in that hand, even after surgery and I'm still recovering to this day. During my post surgery recovery stage of 1 month, I was prescribed a whole range of heavy pain killers from tramadol to endone to name a few. Everyday I woke up feeling like an empty vessel and disconnected from reality. I knew I felt this way due to those painkillers because I've never had this feeling on anything else prior. After I was discharged, I continued to experience shooting nerve pains randomly and so was prescribed more pain killers (endone and forte). My disconnection from reality became more and more like the true reality. I then realised how much I was depending on those pills. So I scrapped them and replaced it with cannabis (illegally) and I haven't looked back. I no longer feel disconnected, I can think without a haze of fog, I can eat and I laugh again. I can also genuinely say cannabis dulls the pain much more effectively than those evil man made pills ever did. Best of all I'm myself again. I was so depressed due to my injury and cannabis helped me through many dark moments, very dark moments. It's ironic that all I could get from the doctor was more crap to make me feel worse but was able get something helpful off a drug dealer (who possibly indirectly helped save my life) which makes me also a criminal for trying to get help. Fast forward to present day, now that I've been on the medical cannabis program for a year, I'm being bled dry in the cost of the treatment. I can get almost as good quality on the streets for half the price! Though my risk is I don't know how it's been grown. This means I am STILL having to go to the streets when money is tight. I would like to be able to go to a medical shop to buy the right type of cannabis for my health and if people want to use it recreational, that should their

choice, just like alcohol is. I support the legalisation and safe use of cannabis in Australia, both medically and recreationally

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

