

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

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

Individual

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

Precedents set by alcohol and tobacco legalization

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:

A) Prevent young people and children from accessing and using cannabis in Victoria;

In an unregulated black market it is inevitable that children and youth will have access to marijuana. Unlike a bottle shop, dealers do not ask for ID, they do not display warnings about the product they sell and they cannot guarantee its quality.

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

Cannabis is known to be far safer than the two most common drugs legally available in Australia: alcohol and tobacco. By giving consumers the option to use a safer drug, either for medical or recreational reasons, the public will be safer. Also note that in an unregulated black market harmful pesticides and chemicals may be present in the cannabis they sell. This market is not going anywhere, so it should be legalized, taxed and regulated.

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;

I absolutely endorse educating young people about the effects of cannabis and all other drugs from a scientific standpoint.

D) prevent criminal activity relating to the illegal cannabis trade in Victoria;

The market demand for cannabis is undeniable. Despite being illegal for decades, the black market is alive

and well for cannabis. By forcing this near-victimless market into the criminal underworld, great harm has been done to our country. There is no regulation for this market, no ACC and nothing stopping criminals spiking cannabis with harmful pesticides and contaminants.

All of the proceeds of the cannabis market are going directly to organised criminal networks who are adept at evading the law. By legalizing cannabis these organised criminals could be significantly weakened financially. This would assist law enforcement in preventing far more heinous, immoral crimes.

E) Assess the health, mental health, and social impacts of cannabis use on people who use cannabis, their families and carers;

On the topic of the impact cannabis has, it cannot be analysed in isolation. We live in a society where alcohol and tobacco is consumed by many and advertised nearly everywhere. Despite the number of deaths caused by both these drugs and the association between alcohol and violent crime, these drugs remain legal.

My argument is that cannabis should be evaluated against the precedents set by alcohol and tobacco legalization. From my understanding, cannabis is far safer and far less detrimental to society than both of these legal drugs.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

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