

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Mr Ramsey Duncan

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,Public health,Mental health,Young people and children,Education,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?

Economic Stimulus

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

- Cannabis is very commonly used in younger people currently
- Legalisation should be for age 21+
- Regulation at point of sale will enforce proof of age
- Legality will deter black markets, making availability for 21 year-olds much lower
- Cigarette plain packaging laws will reduce appeal towards teenagers
- Case studies exist that provide evidence that legalisation may decrease teen usage
- Public education should instruct children on safe usage — as is currently the case for alcohol and cigarettes

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

- By regulating the cultivation and manufacturing guidelines, it will reduce the use of unsafe materials and chemicals
- Common sense safety policies might include: legalisation for personal use at home; ban cannabis use in public, ban cannabis use around children, ban driving under the influence of cannabis
- Additional policies include: licensed establishments for cannabis sales and consumption; commercial cannabis cultivation and manufacturing regulations, packaging and labelling regulation; serving size and potency standardisation

(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;

- Education and public awareness is crucial (as we currently do for cigarettes and alcohol)

- Topics to cover for youth education: physical and mental effects of cannabis; medical benefits; legality; possible long-term mental health considerations associated with underaged use; dangers of driving UTI; danger of sourcing via the black market

(d) Prevent criminal activity relating to the illegal cannabis trade in Victoria;

- Between 2017-2018 the ACIC reported a total of 66,296 consumer cannabis related arrests in Australia. By allowing personal use and cultivation, we will be able to keep consumers out of the criminal justice system. This will prevent life long criminal implications on medicinal and recreational users, and reduce the burden on prisons and courts.

- As demand will always be high for cannabis, legalisation will reduce illegal trade, and the black market will diminish

- Legal access to cannabis for medical reasons will stop patients risking legal consequences for seeking relief that is legal in other parts of the world

- Criminal penalties should still apply for these activities: growing commercial quantities, possessing commercial quantities, selling/distributing without a license, selling/distributing to minors, restricted manufacturing practices (packaging, banned delivery methods, illicit materials)

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

- A baseline should be set and a framework established to monitor the health and social impacts of cannabis post legalisation, which might include: adult/adolescent usage patterns; medical usage patterns; sources of consumer and medical products; non-cannabis drug usage (to determine if cannabis acts as a “gateway” drug); cannabis-related crime rates; driving offences and injuries associated with cannabis use; cannabis related hospitalisation and poisoning

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

Consider the economic impacts of legalisation, as demonstrated by cities such as Colorado. Increased tax revenues, job growth, and investment opportunities all are powerful incentives to push for legalization.

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Ramsey Duncan