

## Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Mx Katie Kruger

**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,Social impacts,Criminal activity,Mental health,Public safety,Young people and children

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

Individual

**Are there any additional themes we should consider?**

I think that it is important to thoroughly weigh the social and economic damages done to individuals and society where cannabis is illegal versus where cannabis legal. The wide ranging effects should be considered from a holistic approach, rather than minimising the issue to purely immediate individual safety.

**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.,There should be no restrictions.

### YOUR SUBMISSION

**Submission:**

I think that it is important to thoroughly weigh the social and economic damages done to individuals and society where cannabis is illegal versus where cannabis legal. We now have many other countries and regions in the world where comparative data could be utilised. Does it make sense that alcohol remains legal and regulated and cannabis not, where alcohol has been shown to be more physically and socially destructive than cannabis. Pushing cannabis use and distribution into the criminal market creates more social problems than it solves. An example of this is the amount of citizens who have fallen victim to drug dealing "scams" operating in Australia. People who require cannabis for medical use, mental health benefits or just to enjoy the occasional spliff have fallen victim to being scammed out of thousands of dollars in the illegal market. Because the market is unregulated these normal Australians cannot use the usual avenues to have action taken on these scams and thus are far more negatively affected than if the drug was legal. Can you imagine of this happened to someone who just wanted glass of wine after a hard day's work? These are the sorts of negative social impacts that are rarely discussed or considered in the debate about the legalisation of drugs and I think it is important to ensure that these and related issues are also taken into account when comparing impacts of decriminalisation/legalisation.

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

### FILE ATTACHMENTS

**File1:**

**File2:**

**File3:**

**Signature:**

Katie Kruger