

## Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Mr Alex Benevento

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

**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.

There should be the same consideration of restrictions that is given to the sale and use of alcohol.

### YOUR SUBMISSION

**Submission:**

I'm someone who doesn't use cannabis and likely wouldn't even if it was made legal for personal use.

It has always seemed hypocritical to me that we can demonstrate significantly detrimental consequences of alcohol consumption (liver disease, domestic violence, and addiction to name just a few) while it remains easily accessible with strong regulation and licensing systems, but then persistently argue against using the same controls for a drug that has demonstrably fewer short- and long-term consequences.

If the argument against legalisation and regulation of cannabis is to protect children, then the implication really is that we have no faith in our existing controls for alcohol either, since it would make sense to apply the same rules.

Tobacco is another drug that seems to be acceptable in that we regulate and license its sale to adults, despite campaigns stating "every cigarette is doing you damage". Cannabis does not carry this same dreadful side effect, and yet we continue to permit tobacco and its use in public places.

There are more arguments to be made in favour of the legalisation of cannabis, ones around medical applications (doctor-prescribed and self-prescribed, in the same way we can choose to medicate ourselves with ibuprofen whenever we like), but I'll leave those to submitters with more knowledge.

Ultimately unless we're willing to ban the use of alcohol and tobacco entirely, it's pure hypocrisy and fear that surrounds the continued efforts to keep cannabis illegal for personal use. Legalise it. Regulate it. License

businesses to sell it, the same as tobacco and alcohol. Reap the benefits of the tax revenue on those new products and the savings from not having to enforce ridiculous offences for a drug that poses nowhere near the threat to public safety and health as tobacco and alcohol.

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

About the submission? Really ask yourself objectively: if you're against the legalisation of cannabis, what is your justification for maintaining the legalisation of tobacco and alcohol?

In general? Dan Andrews is the greatest premier we've ever had.

**FILE ATTACHMENTS**

**File1:**

**File2:**

**File3:**

**Signature:**

Alex Benevento