

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Mr Scott Tangey

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, Mental health, Public safety, Social impacts, Education, Criminal activity, Accessing and using cannabis, 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?

The normalisation of industrial hemp

Economic benefits of regulation

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:

Cannabis is no more dangerous than other legal narcotics such as alcohol and tobacco, and is associated with less long-term health risks. It is less carcinogenic than cigarettes, and does not cause blood pressure or liver issues like alcohol.

Legalisation and regulation has not led to increases in rates of under-age cannabis usage in places such as Colorado and Oregon in the USA

(https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/68/wr/mm6839a3.htm?s_cid=mm6839a3_w). At the same time, it has provided substantial economic benefits and created a whole new legal job sector, taking a significant source of income and means of expanding their customer base away from drug dealers. Effective regulation of adult cannabis usage can and has worked while providing benefits to communities in which it is implemented.

Removing the stigma around hemp would be an added benefit. Industrial hemp has many uses in both food and textile sectors, and is far less water-intensive than other comparable crops currently being produced in this country (<https://www.hempbasics.com/shop/general-hemp-information>). As a fairly arid country, something like hemp would be a far more cost-efficient crop than others such as cotton and rice, both of which require huge amounts of water to be produced.

Legalising cannabis and removing the stigma around hemp could lead to many benefits as a state. It is certainly not for everyone, particularly minors or those with a predisposition towards psychosis, but it can be pleasant and relaxing when used by adults in a responsible manner. If it were treated similarly to alcohol use and regulated responsibly, there should be no reason to keep it from being legally available and taxable.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Scott Tangey