

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Mr Marco Wood

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

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

Individual

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

Opportunities to create new industries/jobs from legal cannabis sale.

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.

People in jail on drug related misdemeanor's should be released and have their criminal records be expunged

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

Legalisation and regulation are the best tools the government has for protecting young people and the wider community from the adverse effects of drug use. As it stands now, cannabis can be easily sold in Victorian high schools and is in many cases easier for minors to attain than alcohol. Furthermore, having cannabis remain illegal leaves puts the production and sale into the hands of criminals, fueling organised crime. This is detrimental to public health, as it empowers criminal gangs to cut costs and maximize the amount of THC in cannabis. It also leads cannabis to be cut with fentanyl, a much more deadly substance. Regulation would prevent this, as cannabis sold to the market would need to undergo the same health checks as regular Australian produce. Cannabis is also safer to consume than alcohol and has the added benefit of mellowing out users, while neither should be taken while driving, cannabis makes users less impulsive, aggressive with less of the fatal consequences we so often see from alcohol consumption. Teenagers will also be better served by proper education on the subject. Education on drug and alcohol use should be compulsory in the statewide curriculum, and it should not be left to individual schools to decide what messages their students are given. Students should be taught the risks, but also given a realistic understanding cannabis use, without the dangers being over exaggerated as they so often are. Exaggerating the dangers of cannabis use turn it into a gateway drug, as when young people first use it and have a reasonably good experience that runs counter to the narrative they were presented in school, they assume that the authorities are exaggerating the harms of all drugs, making them more likely to ignore sound warnings about more dangerous substances such as methamphetamine.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

Aside from the public health benefits, due to this pandemic Victoria is facing recession with many

vulnerable people adversely affected by job loss. This is also a public health concern, as employment is generally linked with better mental health. This committee needs to seriously consider the mental health benefits, as well as the economic benefits of creating a new cannabis industry. It will give our failing economy a shot in the arm, while creating new jobs for those many unemployed.

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Marco L. Wood