

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

██████████
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, Social impacts, Education, Criminal activity, Young people and children, Public safety, Accessing and using cannabis

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 legal. , Sale of cannabis should be legal and regulated.

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

I'm not a user of cannabis or any products derived from it. I have however stayed abreast of the developments in other countries surrounding the legalisation of cannabis.

It appears overwhelmingly clear that legalisation and regulation of cannabis is the answer to the perceived drug problem, not to mention providing a whole host of other benefits to people and their communities.

Firstly, taking the money out of the hands of criminals and putting into local communities is the first clear benefit to legalisation and regulation. Following the Colorado model, which in 2018 generated US\$266M in taxes, we could achieve a very important revenue stream for the funding of youth/community projects, health projects and youth anti-drug awareness.

The war on drugs that has gone on for decades has proven, at least to me, one thing - people are still going to use. When you treat this as a constant and not a variable, the rest of the equation becomes clear.

Once regulated it could be treated the same way as alcohol, with a requirement to produce a proof of age to procure a limited amount. Also, harsh penalties for provision to minors should be introduced and enforced. If this system is good enough for one drug with harmful effects such as alcohol it should be adequate for cannabis.

Once legalised and regulated, an economy on the right side of the fence is established, making it much less lucrative for criminals to use as a revenue stream themselves. When was the last time you drank moonshine?

Research has shown that adolescent use of cannabis has fallen post-legalisation. Despite that, adolescent use still continues in these studied areas. It's important to make the proper information available to young Australians so they can make informed choices on the use of the drug; chiefly the effect it has on the development of young brains. More widespread information campaigns could be funded by the revenue that is raised through cannabis sales tax.

A small number of my co-workers have said to have found success in pain mitigation by using cannabis

products (CBD oil). I've also read and watched numerous stories on the effectiveness of cannabis and cannabis products for seizure treatment in children, anti-anxiety treatment and anti-inflammatory use; it's clear to me that there is something valuable here. The medical benefits offered by cannabis have been studied extensively and it's up to the Government to accept them and legislate for their use. It is unacceptable to have a whole avenue of treatment sitting there unavailable to Australians because of daft, antiquated laws and stigma marring the use of the drug. The opioid epidemic in Australia is very real and is taking lives every day. An alternative for many is sitting there, waiting to be made available. The medical and positive public health benefits are too powerful to ignore and together are my second motive behind writing this submission. A reclassification of the drugs available for treatment would be beneficial for many.

Finally, I wish to focus on further benefits of regulation. When the drug is regulated, its strength and potency is measured and known. People know exactly what they are getting when they procure and they will be able to make much better informed decisions. With that, the responsibility then befalls the user to act in a safer manner in private and in public. Cannabis should be regulated in parallel to alcohol in many aspects. For example, its use in private residences and limited use in public. It should be banned for use around children, as it is smoking. Driving whilst under the influence should be banned, but a much more thorough roadside test would need to accompany this law as testing positive does not mean the person is under the influence or even that they use.

There are risks with any drug and they can be mitigated through proper education.

The time is now for action on this issue. There's too much at stake. I sincerely hope the Government makes the much needed progressive move for all Victorians.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

