

## 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::**

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

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

Individual, Working in the health sector

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

Portugal's and the USAs legalisation programs, taxation benefits and dismantling of illegal supply networks. It worked for alcohol, and with access to harm minimisation it can work for most substances in private settings.

**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. , There should be no restrictions.

### YOUR SUBMISSION

**Submission:**

Criminalisation of recreational marijuana has failed to either stop use among all ages or reduce criminal production of it. This is a fact well backed with evidence. Legalisation in other countries has had multiple benefits from harm minimisation to a reduction in jail occupancy by people who would almost certainly be better diverted into mental health programs instead of a life of crime and violence. We have a unique opportunity to be at the forefront of changing social mores and better outcomes for vulnerable members of the populace. An excellent detailed article is linked here.

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2017/dec/05/portugals-radical-drugs-policy-is-working-why-hasnt-the-world-copied-it>

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

This is an important issue - the ACT has had good outcomes using decriminalisation but that doesn't address the root causes of substance abuse. Some of the enormous profits from taxation could be used to advance education and mental health initiatives for vulnerable young people in our state. Where's the downside outside of a lifetime of indoctrination about its supposedly awful effects. Evidence suggests this to be nonsense. Evidence and studies point to win/win for both government bodies and citizens. Thanks for reading!

### FILE ATTACHMENTS

**File1:**

**File2:**

**File3:**

**Signature:**

