

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Mr Nicholas Sullivan

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, Education, Public health, Public safety, Criminal activity, Mental health, Social impacts

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. ,Cultivation of cannabis for personal use should be legal.

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

A) Prevent young people and children from accessing and using cannabis in Victoria;

If enforcement of proof of age (21+) at the point of sale was part of the sale it would reduce the risk for adolescents. It would also prevent purchases from unknown / unsafe sources by shifting control out of the black market.

B) Protect public health and public safety in relation to the use of cannabis in Victoria;

Majority of cannabis purchases are from the black market - this puts patients and recreational users at risk. Not only do they don't know how their cannabis has been grown and what chemicals may have been used, they could be procuring it from unsuitable characters. There needs to be:

- Licensed establishments for cannabis sales and consumption
- Commercial cannabis cultivation and manufacturing regulations
- Restricted delivery formats and types of products available
- Packaging and labelling regulation
- Serving size and potency standardisation

C) implement health education campaigns and programs to ensure children and young people are aware of the dangers of drug use, in particular, cannabis use;

The following topics should be covered for youth education:

- History of cannabis
- Cannabinoids (THC vs CBD, ECS)
- Physical and mental effects of cannabis
- Common medical uses of cannabis
- Legality of cannabis
- Possible long term mental health conditions and addiction associated with underaged cannabis use

- Dangers of driving under the influence of cannabis
- Dangers of sourcing cannabis from the black market

D) prevent criminal activity relating to the illegal cannabis trade in Victoria;

If cannabis products are regulated and start to appear at trusted stores this will reduce the demand for cannabis from the black market and illegal trade would be heavily reduced.

The following restrictions should remain upon legalisation to govern cannabis related criminal activities:

- Growing commercial quantities
- Possession of commercial quantities
- Selling and distribution without a license
- Selling and distribution to minors
- Restricted manufacturing practices (packaging, banned delivery methods, using illicit materials)

E) assess the health, mental health, and social impacts of cannabis use on people who use cannabis, their families and carers;

A baseline should be set and a framework established to monitor the health and social impacts of cannabis post legalisation.

- Some indicators to track could include:
- Adult and adolescent recreational usage patterns
- Medical cannabis usage patterns
- Sources of consumer recreational and medical products
- Non-cannabis drug usage (to determine if cannabis acts as a “gateway” drug)
- Cannabis-related crime rates
- Driving offences and injuries related to cannabis use
- Cannabis related hospitalisation and poisoning

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

If you look into the sales data of US based cannabis stores the potential GST and related tax from sale of cannabis products would inject a huge amount into the Government for any research or related costs for the legalisation of cannabis products

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Nicholas Sullivan