

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Mr Adam Wilson

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

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

Individual

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

Tax revenue

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.

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

Please find my attached submission, responding to two of the terms of reference.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1: [5f3a33ce69fb7-AW_Cannabis_Submission.pdf](#)

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Adam Wilson

Submission to the 'Inquiry into the use of cannabis in Victoria'

August 2020

Response to the terms of reference:

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

Cannabis is already widely available to both adults and young people in the current state of prohibition. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 3.8% of the world's adult population aged 15–64 years, or the equivalent of 188 million people (ranging between 164 to 219 million) used cannabis at least once in 2017. ^[1]

Legalising the sale of cannabis to those over the age of 18 would reduce the risk to young people by:

- Enforcing proof of age checks at the point of sale just like alcohol.
- Preventing illicit sales from unknown sources.
- Enforcing severe penalties for anyone supplying cannabis to those under the legal age.

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;

Educating young people about the consumption and sale of cannabis should be treated much the same as alcohol. Mandatory curriculum could be implemented in schools to inform children of the risks and effects of cannabis consumption.

A report conducted post cannabis legalisation in Denver, United States provided some insight into a successful cannabis education campaign. The findings showed 75% of the teenage respondents were discouraged from using cannabis after being exposed to the campaign. ^[2]

The following topics could be considered for cannabis 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

References

1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2020). Alcohol, tobacco & other drugs in Australia. Retrieved from <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/alcohol/alcohol-tobacco-other-drugs-australia>
2. iNSIGHTS LAB. (2019). 2018 High Costs Campaign Evaluation Denver Teens Survey: November – December 2018 [PDF]. <https://www.thehighcosts.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/High-Costs-Post-Campaign-Survey-Results.pdf>