

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Mr Duncan Silcock

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, Public health, Public safety, Education, 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;

Currently cannabis is the most cultivated, distributed and consumed illicit drug in Australia despite the prohibition. I work in a highschool, and cannabis use is quite common among students. Prohibition does not seem to do a good job of preventing access.

Obtaining cannabis through the black market (finding a dealer through social networks at school) or on the dark web are both reasonably accessible (albeit dangerous) options for a teenager. It would likely be much more difficult for a teenager to buy cannabis from a regulated shop that required legitimate ID. Additionally cannabis products could be plain packaged like tobacco to further discourage child/adolescent interest.

B:protect public health and public safety in relation to the use of cannabis in Victoria;

Based on my research from my psychology postgraduate I know cannabis smoke is not good for child and adolescent development, and as such the legal age for consumption should be set at 21.

Driving should be illegal when intoxicated with cannabis as it can have similar impairment effects to alcohol.

Many of the negative mental health effects related to cannabis are exacerbated by use of stronger cannabis. Legislation would allow for standardisation of potency of cannabis, which could help remedy this and give consumers more control over the negative health effect they experience.

Most forms of painkillers available today have negative side effects, are not suitable for many groups of

people, and/or are very addictive. Cannabis could be a safer alternative. Additionally patients already using cannabis, or looking to start, as a treatment option will have less hoops to jump through to access the treatment.

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;

This already exists in highschools and I have been a part of many classes. We cover as much information on cannabis as we do with alcohol (a drug the students are almost certainly going to interact with in their life) and give a good overview of the dangers.

D: prevent criminal activity relating to the illegal cannabis trade in Victoria;
If cannabis were legal the vast majority of crime relating to its trade would disappear, and would not have to be policed (saving money).

Despite the fact tobacco is extremely heavily taxed, the vast majority of tobacco consumed in Australia is not from the black market. There is no reason it would not be the same for cannabis.

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

There is some research around this, but not nearly enough. Legalisation would make it far easier to study the impacts (particularly in Australian populations rather than US where most of the data comes from), and people may be more honest about their usage in surveys, giving us a much clearer picture on real social, health and mental health effects.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Duncan Silcock