

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Mr Stephen Leahey

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

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

Individual,other – please explain

Leveraging potent taxation, tourism, and other economic benefits

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

Economic gain

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:

To whom it may concern,

This submission is one of impulse. As I sit here in the couch with my wife, my dog, in stage 4 lockdown, it is apparent there is an opportunity here.

Prohibition clearly does not work, particularly not for marijuana. I am 36 years old, and since the age of 14 marijuana has been readily available. Even in the pandemic this appears not to have changed.

As time goes on, and marijuana continues to be distributed by criminals, criminals are being further funded. These funds are enabling criminals to commit other crimes, and to benefit from a lack of regulatory structure around consumption of the drug.

In a time of declining national prosperity due to impacts of the pandemic, it would seem that a regulatory structure to control the quality of the drug, support consumption of it by responsible adults, generate tax revenue from sales and licensing, stimulate new industry, jobs, and innovation, and encourage marijuana tourism, has quite literally no downside.

A primary upside would be limiting the availability for underage persons to access the drug to that not worse than alcohol. A secondary upside would be that subjects of abuse could be addressed without fear of legal repercussions.

It's unclear to me why marijuana was criminalised in the first place. This was an event before my time. One that I don't identify with, or relate to. I suspect that the vast majority of the public 60 or below, would agree, or have no opinion. It's an old law, and doesn't reflect modern day values.

Thanks for your time,
Faithfully,
Stephen Leahey

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

Do not fear change, embrace it.

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

Stephen Leahey