

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

Mr Nick Marks

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

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? :

Sale of cannabis should be legal and regulated.

YOUR SUBMISSION

Submission:

The most urgent issue regarding Cannabis prohibition is that it has created a black market that is completely unregulated and controlled by criminal organisations. As a result I have observed that Cannabis is, in many cases, easier to obtain than alcohol or tobacco. Obtaining Cannabis on the black market is as simple as doing a Google search and then getting it delivered, much like one would order a pizza. This directly puts younger Australians, particularly adolescents at risk.

Educating young Australians about Cannabis use should focus on harm reduction. The focus should be on the history of Cannabis use, its immediate effects, its longer term effects and learning to identify compulsive behaviour in relation to Cannabis use.

Ending the prohibition would provide the State with further resources for social programs to educate the public and provide healthcare for those struggling with addiction. The prohibition on Cannabis is of no benefit to our society when it is unenforceable and only serves to benefit criminal enterprise.

Cannabis can be a harmful substance when abused, it can be seriously harmful to adolescents and the prohibition contributes to this. A well regulated market for Cannabis would be a major political and social achievement for Victoria. At the very least it is an opportunity to reduce consumption among young Australians with a well regulated market.

Finally, it is important to take into consideration that criminalising Cannabis consumption creates social stigma that creates a roadblock for those seeking help. Especially younger Australians who may opt to not seek support out of fear of being labeled a criminal.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:
File2:
File3:

Signature:
Nicholas Marks