

**Subject:** Submission to the enquiry into the use of cannabis in Victoria. Ref: Submission number 1357

**From:** Heather Pickard [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 September 2021 5:19 PM

**To:** LC Table Office [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Submission to the enquiry into the use of cannabis in Victoria. Ref: Submission number 1357

Dear Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee,

[REDACTED]

In August last year, the Self Help Addiction Resource Centre (SHARC) made a submission to the Inquiry into Use of Cannabis in Victoria. Ref: Submission 1357

On the recent publication of the report, we were distressed to see that SHARC is listed alongside a number of organisations and interest groups who were in favour of maintaining the prohibition of cannabis (p.35). This is despite our submission indicating support in the survey for Option (c) *Personal use of cannabis should be decriminalised*. We recognise that there may have been some confusion as we did unintentionally tick the box for Option (a) *Use of cannabis should remain legal for medical treatment only*.

We have been advised that the decision to place SHARC on the list of those supporting prohibition was subject to some discussion and debate by the Inquiry team, and with hindsight we have some quality improvement around how we handle these invites to submit and will ensure we take that challenge on board. However we would have appreciated an opportunity to clarify such a contradiction in messaging.

Being identified as supporting prohibition is in direct opposition to SHARC's inclusive, supportive and progressive philosophy and policies. This listing is causing significant distress and disappointment among our stakeholders and community. We are a peer based, advocacy organisation, strongly supporting human rights and the dignity of choice and we do not support the prohibition of cannabis.

SHARC formally requests that it be removed, in the online version of the report, from the list of stakeholders in favour of maintaining the prohibition of cannabis.

I do hope that the Committee can assist SHARC in this matter. I know we are all under the hammer and it feels like just another thing to manage at the moment but it would be really appreciated if we could do the request as above.

Kind regards,

Heather Pickard – [Monday to Thursday](#)

Chief Executive Officer

**Self Help Addiction Resource Centre Inc.**

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**W:** [sharc.org.au](http://sharc.org.au)