

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

██████████
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,Public health,Mental health,Young people and children,Criminal activity,Education,Public safety,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:

Children and Young Adults Access to Cannabis

- As a Cannabis user since I was 13 years old I would often purchase Cannabis off the black market while under the age of 18. This is in multiple countries around the world as I grew up as an expat and we frequently moved. Not once in all that time did I ever meet a cannabis dealer that cared about my age. I never got asked for ID and when I travelled to countries like the US and when I first moved to Aus it was a lot easier to be able to purchase cannabis then it was alcohol. Now keep in mind this is someone who is new to a country and doesn't have a lot of connections. Still without much effort I was always able to source cannabis. Conversely there were licensed liquor retailers that would deny me access to alcohol when I tried to purchase due to checks and balances put in place to stop just that from happening. If you would like to restrict access to children and young adults I would encourage applying the same rules we have for tobacco and alcohol to marijuana. In Australia as a 17 year old it was near impossible to get a beer or a packet of cigarettes unless an older person would purchase them for me, even so most people knew the risks and were not willing to take the chance. Marijuana on the other hand was very accessible and within a few days you could make a few connections that would guarantee a consistent supply. What we are doing now is not working, kids are not being turned away from cannabis and are infact turning towards it and other party drugs due to the ease of access the black market allows for and how restricted and expensive alcohol is. I saw many friends in university change to taking chemical drugs such as MDMA due to the price difference of taking drugs vs a night out on alcohol. I worked in night clubs throughout university and saw this play out over and over again with 18 year olds that just start being able to go to licenced venues. For students and entry level workers the choice of spending \$40-\$60 a night compared to \$200+ is not even really a consideration. It doesn't take long before these 18 year olds where no longer ordering beers and only ordering water with very dilated pupils. The current system pushes people towards using illegal drugs and does not have an efficient or effective way of deterring young people. By legalising marijuana, taxing and regulating it you would be able to use tried and tested methods to bring down consumption within the

younger age bracket. You would also allow adults who are purchasing cannabis anyway to do so in a way that is quality controlled, taxable and not putting money in the hands of criminal organisations. I hope you take this and other issues raised into consideration using a heavy handed policing approach to drugs has failed. Its time to accept that we made a mistake and we need to course correct so that we stop ruining the lives of people who are not hurting anyone. I know at this point it often gets brought up that its not a victimless crime because the money goes to the criminal organisations supplying it. That is a choice the Australian government has made, they will not supply something there is a demand for, any economist will tell you that in this situation a black market will arise. It is not the people using marijuana that are choosing to fund criminal organisations its the government who has refused to provide an alternative option. Most users I know would much prefer to go to a legal establishment and purchase their cannabis even if it was at a higher price than what you can get on the black market. Quality would be assured, no risk of police detection and the options you would have would be far greater. Alternatively a lot of people would choose to grow at home for personal use if that was an option, which would also have the effect of reducing criminal organisations profits.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature:

