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**From:** Hayden Telford [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 March 2021 9:23 AM  
**To:** Inquiry into the Use of Cannabis in Victoria  
**Subject:** Trouble with esubmission

Hello,

Cannabis is already a very accessible drug that once you are able to acquire, connects you directly to someone heavily involved in illicit activity, that can lead young easily persuadable people to a dark lifestyle involving heavier drugs. Hence why cannabis is currently “gateway drug”, but if cannabis’ bad stigma was stripped from the drug and removed it from the same category as life ruining drugs such as ice, heroin etc. and was even potentially legalised, (and taxed to create a high revenue stream to help with addictions, and counselling for people with cannabis and heavier drug problems) it would break the “gateway” component from the drug and severe connections of young people to illicit activity.

I have had first hand account of the lengths organised criminals go to to get a drug as harmless as cannabis into the public hand, after seeing a neighbour's rental be completely stripped out and used as a “grow” house, which went completely unnoticed for months. It took a huge toll on him, having to completely re-plaster and re floor the whole house.

Cannabis is a harmless drug if used in moderation, which if legalised and properly taxed, could put more money into the education system to CORRECTLY teach teenagers not to abuse, and help create resources to help those in need.

Thankyou,  
Hayden

[REDACTED]