

Inquiry into the use of Cannabis in Victoria

SEAMUS WEST

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

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

Individual

Are there any additional themes we should consider?

YOUR SUBMISSION

Cannabis definitely has its positives and negatives. I have used it for 8 years. I have fibromyalgia and gout, cannabis seems to be the only thing that has helped the pain. Psychologically though, cannabis has definitely affected me. I have had a marijuana induced psychosis and now have to live with schizophrenia. The amount of THC found in cannabis these days can be alarmingly high. This is often known as 'skunk'. I choose to not use it daily anymore, instead I choose to use it as more of a treat. If you look at Portugal, where drugs are decriminalized, the results have shown to be quite interesting. I think it's very important to remember that everyone reacts differently to substances. I experience a real comedown when I'm withdrawing from weed, whereas most people don't seem to report such thing. My family don't support me using it, whereas most of my friends (even friends that have never tried weed) support it. Recreationally, cannabis leads to peaceful socialising, thought-provoking conversation and creativity. The question about "is cannabis a gateway drug or not" is a tricky one for me to answer. I feel like if a person's going to try another substance, aren't they just going to do it anyway. If it really is a gateway drug, then why would it be if most drugs people try are going to be a complete different high? Having said this, I used to be addicted to ice and wonder if the curiosity to try it would've still existed if I'd never touched cannabis. Despite me wondering this, I still believe you have the choice whether you want to try another drug or not. I think another important thing to remember is; alcohol can cause death, but you won't die from weed. Unlike alcohol where people can often be foolish and/or violent, weed is peaceful. I've heard of people getting hospitalized in America from eating edibles, so I don't think it would be wise to legalise edibles here. I feel like Australia is the nanny state when it comes to legalising weed, look at how far behind we are. I guess we need to look at how the rest of the world deals with cannabis and enquire to see if it would be worth applying to Australia. Just imagine how much of a booming economy we could have in Australia if it were to become legalised. If we wanted better quality clothing then cotton, hemp clothing would be a better quality alternative. Cannabis fuel: Production of bio-ethanol from biomass is one way to reduce both consumption of crude oil and environmental pollution. Using bio-ethanol blended gasoline fuel for automobiles can significantly reduce petroleum use and exhaust greenhouse gas emission. It's also a waste of the taxpayer's dollar criminalising cannabis, when they could be using the taxpayer's dollar to invest in more detox and rehab programs. I also don't believe cannabis should be allowed to be used during pregnancy.

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?:

Australia needs to stop being a nanny state when it comes to Cannabis, we are falling years behind other democracies. There are many positives and negatives to cannabis that I have listed in the above box.

Select all that apply.

Do you think there should there be restrictions on the use of cannabis? :

Personal use of cannabis should be legal. Cultivation of cannabis for personal use should be legal. There should be no restrictions.

FILE ATTACHMENTS

File1:

File2:

File3:

Signature: