



11 November 2025

The Hon. Jacinta Allan MP  
Premier

*Delivered via email: [jacinta.allan@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:jacinta.allan@parliament.vic.gov.au)*

Dear Premier,

We write to you on behalf of a wide range of organisations to express our deepest concern about the Victorian Government’s decision to oppose the decriminalisation of cannabis following the Inquiry into personal adult use of cannabis (“the Inquiry”). We call on you to urgently reconsider this decision.

We see firsthand the harmful impact of these outdated laws on vulnerable members of our community and their ineffectiveness at reducing harm.

Every year in Victoria, an average of 7,805 people get caught up in the criminal justice system for possessing small quantities of cannabis, with 3,812 of these people arrested.

Victoria’s ongoing criminalisation of adult cannabis use was shown through the Inquiry to unfairly target Aboriginal communities through discriminatory policing. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are 11 times more likely to be searched by Victoria Police and eight times more likely to be arrested for cannabis possession, while non-Indigenous people are 50% more likely to receive a caution for cannabis possession. These figures confirm what Aboriginal communities have long known: racial profiling and systemic bias persist in policing cannabis offences.

Like the former public intoxication laws that led to the tragic and preventable death of Aunty Tanya Day, cannabis laws punish people instead of supporting them. They increase unnecessary contact with the criminal legal system, re-traumatise people, and entrench cycles of disadvantage. As with public intoxication, and as was found by the Inquiry, cannabis use is a public health issue, not a criminal one.

The cost of enforcing the criminalisation of cannabis Australia-wide is estimated to be \$1.7 billion every year. This includes \$1.1 billion spent on imprisonment and \$475 million on policing. The decision to continue criminalising cannabis will waste millions of dollars on valuable police, court and corrections resources on a victimless offence. It also ensures the illicit cannabis market in Victoria, which the Parliamentary Budget Office values at over one billion dollars, will fund organised crime, instead of the Victorian economy.

With over 80% of Victorians supporting decriminalisation, positive evidence from the ACT's decriminalisation of cannabis and overwhelming stakeholder support, we call on the government to reconsider its decision.

Signed,  
Australian Injecting & Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)  
Australian Lawyers Alliance  
Federation of Community Legal Centres Victoria  
First Step  
Fitzroy Legal Service  
Georgie Purcell MP  
Harm Reduction Victoria  
Health and Community Services Union (HACSU)  
Legalise Cannabis Victoria  
Self Help Addiction Resource Centre (SHARC)  
Southside Justice  
South-East Monash Legal Service  
Uniting Vic.Tas  
Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service  
Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA)  
Victorian Allied Health Professionals Association (VAHPA)  
Victorian Greens  
Westjustice  
Windana  
Youthlaw