

## Dear Premier Andrews,

Every year, over 600,000 Victorians from all walks of life use cannabis. We want them to be treated fairly and supported to live full and happy lives. That's why we are calling for your commitment to decriminalise cannabis use in Victoria.

Since 2014, Victorian police have arrested more than 50,000 Victorians merely for using cannabis. Thousands of people have had their opportunities in life permanently limited by the burden of a criminal record. And it's Aboriginal people, people of colour, young people and people experiencing homelessness who bear this burden most heavily.

Experts across the legal, mental health, Aboriginal justice, youth justice and alcohol and other drugs sectors support the decriminalisation of cannabis. The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service has noted that "decriminalisation not only allows reallocation of court and legal resources, but vastly improves social and health outcomes for community and families."

For most people who use cannabis, it's a minor part of their life. But for people whose cannabis use becomes a problem, decriminalisation means they can reach out for help without the threat of an arrest.

We note that the most recent National Drug Strategy Household Survey shows that 77% of Victorians think cannabis use should be decriminalised. The ongoing criminalisation of people for using cannabis is out of step with community expectations.

**Mr Andrews, we call on you to listen to the evidence, the experts and the demands of the community. Decriminalising cannabis use will help us take care of ourselves and our communities and make Victoria a fairer place for us all.**

Signed,

