

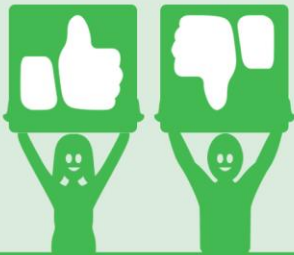
2020 NZ CANNABIS REFERENDUM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1

WHAT IS A REFERENDUM?

It's a vote on a specific question. It is usually a YES or NO vote.



2

HOW DOES A REFERENDUM WORK?

A referendum can be binding, which means that the government legally must abide by the outcome of the referendum. Alternatively, a referendum can be non-binding, which means that the government is not required to abide by the results of the referendum.

3

HOW DO I VOTE IN A REFERENDUM?

If you are enrolled to vote, you can vote in a referendum. You will receive voting information in the mail and can vote in person, on the day, or through early voting.



REFERENDUM PROCESS

In 2020, the cannabis referendum is at the same time as the general election (for MP and Party votes), that means that you can vote in both at the same time. This is the case whether you are voting from overseas, voting on election day, or voting early from Saturday 3 October.

To enrol to vote, or more information about how to vote head to www.vote.nz.

2020 NZ CANNABIS REFERENDUM

WHAT IS THE REFERENDUM QUESTION?

Do you support the Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill?

You can then vote:



This question is based on a proposed bill, which means that voters need to be familiar with what's included in the bill to make an informed decision. More information about the bill is available at www.referendums.govt.nz/cannabis/summary.html

BINDING VS NON-BINDING

The cannabis referendum is a **non-binding** referendum. The non-binding nature of the referendum means that even with a YES vote, the proposed bill would not be implemented immediately.



The bill would have to be debated and negotiated in Parliament, and the public will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the bill.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE BILL?

THE PROPOSED CANNABIS LEGALISATION AND CONTROL BILL INCLUDES:



A person must be 20 years old to buy or use cannabis.



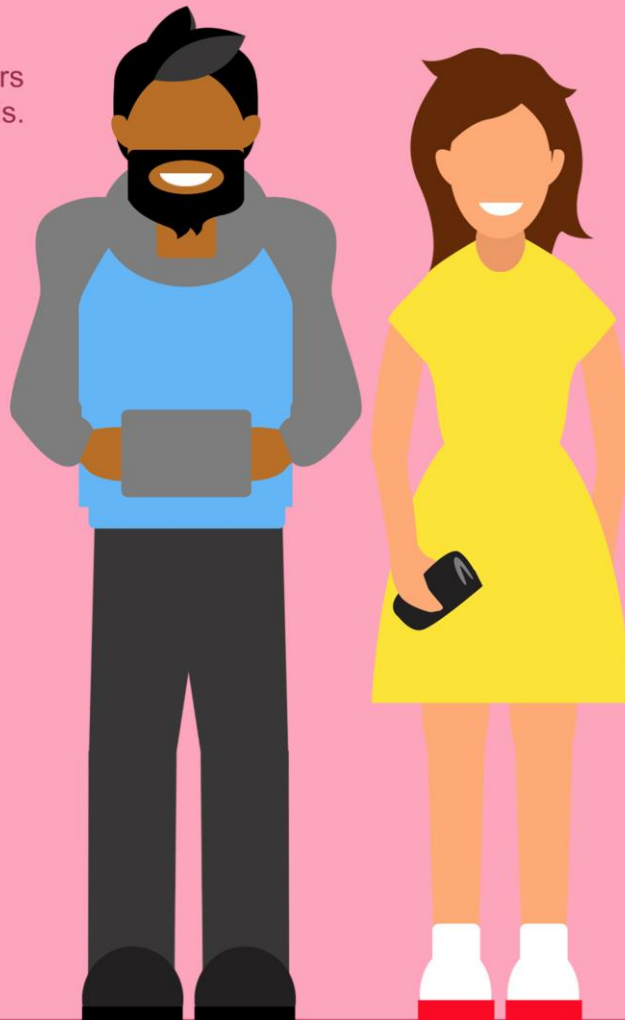
Cannabis could be consumed legally in private residences and licensed premises only.



Homegrown cannabis - two plants per adult; maximum of four plants per household.

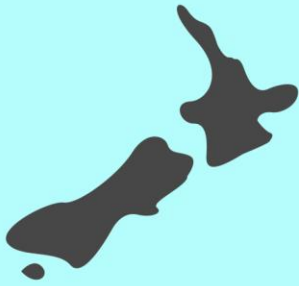


14 grams is the most a person can buy or hold at any one time.



Social sharing - sharing is allowed between adults over 20 years providing no money is exchanged.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE CANNABIS MARKETPLACE



There will be a cap on the total amount of cannabis available on the New Zealand market.



There will be separate licenses for producing, selling and premises where cannabis can be consumed.



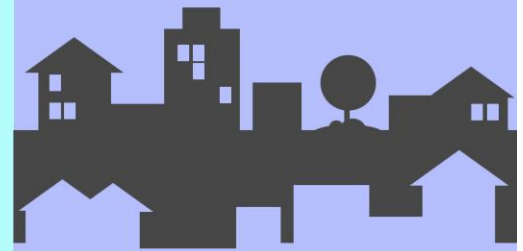
Cannabis products cannot be sold at outlets that also sell tobacco or alcohol.



Restrictions on marketing and advertising - including plain packaging, limited signage, total ban on sponsorships.

20%

Any single cannabis producer cannot supply more than 20% of the national supply of cannabis.



A share of cannabis production would be allocated to ensure that Māori and economically deprived areas are able to fairly participate.



Excise tax, GST and levies will be ring-fenced for drug treatment and education programmes.

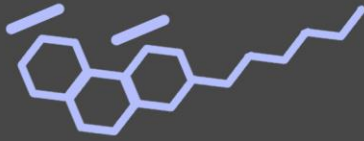


Requirements for public health messaging at all outlets and on products.



People with cannabis convictions for personal use would not be automatically disqualified from getting a license to produce cannabis.

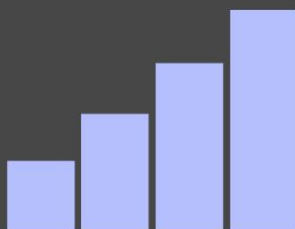
RESTRICTIONS ON CANNABIS PRODUCTS



Restricted levels of THC (psychoactive compound) in cannabis grown and sold.



Cannabis-infused beverages, injectables, or products that include tobacco or alcohol would be banned.

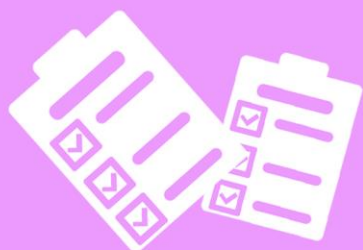


Legal products would at first only include dried and fresh cannabis, whole plants and seeds. The introduction of other products such as edibles would be considered later.



There will be a cap on the total cannabis produced with a goal to reduce overall consumption and draw users away from the black market.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE REGULATIONS



A National Cannabis Authority will make decisions on cannabis licenses, oversee the national cannabis market, and report progress to the government.



For unlawful sales, businesses can face fines of up to \$100,000, and individuals can face up to two years of jail time.



Fines or jail time are aimed to encourage use of the legal marketplace for both suppliers and consumers of cannabis products.



For supplying cannabis to people **under 20**, businesses can face fines of up to \$150,000, and individuals can face up to four years of jail time.



Fines for people **under 20** could be dropped if the individual agrees to a treatment or education programme.



Fines for personal use infringements are much smaller e.g. \$500 for possessing more than the legal limit of 14g, public consumption of cannabis or underage possession.

WHAT A YES / NO COULD MEAN FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?



A **YES** vote would lead to the proposed bill going through a select committee process where the bill can be debated and negotiated in parliament. If implemented, it would legalise the sale and use of cannabis. However, more regulations and restrictions would be put in place to regulate the cannabis market, which would then need to be enforced.



A **NO** vote in the cannabis referendum would mean there would be no change to our cannabis laws. In this case, our cannabis restrictions are determined by two bills, the 1975 Misuse of Drugs Act, and the 2019 Misuse of Drugs Act Amendment.

For communities, legalisation may mean different things. For those over 20 years, it would mean easier access to safer and legal cannabis products for personal use. There would also be opportunities for individuals to enter a legal cannabis marketplace, including those who have past cannabis convictions for possession.

WHAT IS A DRUG POLICY?

Drug policy is the way a country approaches the supply and use of drugs in society. New Zealand's drug policy aims to reduce health and social problems related to drugs. Drug policy includes drug laws and regulations, alongside priorities for regulation, health promotion and medical or therapeutic interventions. These are outlined in the National Drug Policy 2015-2020, along with our legislation for alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.



WHY IS DRUG LAW REFORM IMPORTANT?

Drug law reform is important when parts of the law are not serving and supporting communities as they should be. For instance, drug law that requires the police to prosecute those who use substances as criminals causes harm, and does not help people address their drug use. However, drug laws also reduce harm, for example, by limiting the availability of drugs, imposing drink-driving limits and the minimum purchase age for alcohol. To keep our communities safe, it is important to work towards balanced and healthy drug law and to invest in effective health and social services.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.vote.nz
www.referendums.govt.nz/cannabis/summary.html
www.facebook.com/cayadauckland

