

DRUG LAW REFORMS SURVEY 2025

Interpretive notes

Red text are instructions for online programming of the questionnaire and will not be shown to respondents.

Headers are for guidance and will also not be shown to respondents in the online version.

Introduction

We appreciate that some people may find the subject of this survey confronting or upsetting. If you need support, you can contact one of the numbers below to talk to somebody:

- Lifeline: 13 11 14 (available 24 hours, 7 days)
- Griefline: 1300 845 745

If you need support in relation to your own or someone else's drug use, you can:

- Contact Family Drug Support on 1300 368 186 (available 24 hours, 7 days)
- Search the [ATODA Directory](#) for alcohol, tobacco and other drug treatment and support services

Click '**Next**' to continue.

Thank you for taking part. We'll begin with a few questions about you to help keep your membership profile up-to-date and ensure our surveys reflect the diversity of the Canberra community.

[Programmer instruction: Existing profile question]

Q What is your age group?

16-17
18-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55-64
65-74
75+

[Programmer instruction: Existing profile question]

Q. Which of the following best describes your gender?

Male
Female
Non-binary
Other
Prefer not to say

[Programmer instruction: Existing profile question]

Q. Where were you born?

In the ACT
Somewhere else in Australia
Overseas
Prefer not to say

AWARENESS AND INTEREST IN DRUG LAW REFORMS

Please read before continuing....

The recent ACT drug law reforms aim to divert people who use drugs away from the criminal justice system and encourage them to access health services.

Police will still confiscate illicit drugs a person is holding.

In this next section, we'd like to hear about your awareness of, and levels of interest in, drug law reforms in the ACT.

There are no right or wrong answers to the following questions – we are just after your honest thoughts and experiences.

And just a reminder, your responses are confidential and will not be personally identifiable.

[Programmer instruction: Single select question]

Q. Before today, how much did you know about drug law reforms in the ACT?

I know a lot about it
I know some details about it
I know a little about it
I know nothing about it
Prefer not to say

Q. And how interested are you in drug law reforms in the ACT?

Extremely interested
Very interested
Moderately interested
Slightly interested
Not at all interested
Prefer not to say

[Programmer instruction: Multi select question]

Q. Which of the following aspects of drug law reforms in the ACT are you most interested in?

(Select all that apply)

The types and quantities of drugs covered under the ACT's drug laws
Penalties for possessing illegal drugs for personal use
Eligibility for health diversion programs or fines instead of prosecution
Police powers to confiscate drugs
The impact of the reforms on drug-related stigma and public health outcomes
Other (please specify)
None of the above
Prefer not to say

[Programmer instruction: Single select question]

Q. What do you think is the current legal status for adults who possess small amounts of illegal drugs (not including cannabis) in the ACT?

- Some drugs are legal to possess in any amount
- Some drugs are legal to possess in small amounts
- All drugs are illegal, and any amount leads to a criminal charge
- All drugs are illegal, but small amounts of some attract a fine instead of a criminal charge
- Other (please specify)
- I'm not sure

VIEWS ON DRUG USE

In this next section, we'd like to hear your views on personal drug use and how it should be addressed by authorities.

Again, there are no right or wrong answers – we are just after your honest thoughts and experiences.

[Programmer instruction: Single select question]

Q. Do you think that people caught with small amounts of illicit drugs for personal use should receive a criminal record?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

[Programmer instruction: Display in a grid and rotate ordering]

Q. What single action best describes what you think should happen to anyone found in possession of small quantities of the following drugs for personal use?

1. Cocaine
2. Ecstasy
3. Heroin
4. Hallucinogens (e.g. LSD, Magic Mushrooms)
5. Methamphetamine (i.e. ice, base)
6. Amphetamine (i.e. speed, non-prescribed)
7. Methadone/buprenorphine (i.e. non-prescribed)
8. Cannabis (i.e. non-prescribed)

- No action
- A caution or warning only
- Referral to drug education program
- Referral to treatment
- Something similar to a parking fine, up to \$200
- A substantial fine, around \$1,000
- A community service order
- Weekend detention
- A prison sentence
- Some other arrangement
- I'm not sure

[Programmer instruction: Display in a grid and rotate ordering] Q. Do you think that you would behave negatively towards other people because of their... • injecting drug use • other drug use (non-injecting)	Never Rarely Sometimes Often Always I'm not sure
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IMPACTS OF ACT DRUG LAW REFORMS	
Lastly, the following questions will help us better understand the community's views on the impacts of drug law reforms in the ACT.	
[Programmer instruction: Display in a grid and rotate ordering] Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements: • "The ACT drug law reforms are reducing the harms associated with drugs" • "The ACT drug law reforms have made my community safer" • "The ACT drug law reforms are helping to provide people with the support they might need" • "The ACT drug law reforms have increased public drug use"	Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree I'm not sure
[Programmer instruction: Short answer question] Q. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us about drug law reforms in the ACT?	Open-ended response (500-character limit)
[Programmer instruction: Single select question] Q. Would you like us to email you when the survey results are published on the ACT Government website?	Yes No
That is the end of the survey – thank you for participating. You can find out more about the ACT drug law reforms here.	

You will be entered into the prize draw.

All the best,

The YourSay Panel Team.