

<u>Cannabis – Better Informed, 22nd March 2023</u>

Those in attendance at the conference were asked to take part in a short poll regarding their views on Cannabis. We have attached the results from the poll below:

Cannabis - Better Informed. Mentimeter Poll Responses. - Niada

- The majority of those in attendance felt that Cannabis classification should be reviewed, whilst a small number believe that it should remain as a controlled substance.
- The majority also felt that the current classification of Cannabis can lead to people, who use cannabis, being charged with a criminal offence unreasonably thus causing more harm than good.
- Views indicate that people believe Cannabis can be addictive however less harmful than Alcohol and Tobacco.
- Opinions were divided on whether Cannabis is a gateway drug.

The responses from this poll were used to shape our views moving forward.

Having also consulted with our members, NIADA feel that whilst Cannabis has potentially negative effects on a person health, its current classification under the Misuse of Drugs act 1971, potentially exposes people unproportionally, to the criminal justice system. As such we feel that a new conversation should take place reviewing the classification of Cannabis as a Class B Controlled Drug, as determined by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.