

MEDICAL CANNABIS — PRESCRIPTIONS

1042. Hon COLIN TINCKNELL to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

Health jurisdictions in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland have shown compassion in allowing GPs to apply for and prescribe schedule 8 medicinal cannabis products. The procedure is rather simple in New South Wales, which requires only the submission of an online form to its department of health. The minister stated in response to my question without notice 894 on 21 August this year that he has asked for a review of the policy concerning prescribing a schedule 8 medicinal cannabis product, with “any changes to be considered, dependent on new or emerging medical evidence around the risks and benefits of this therapy”. We welcome a review, but does this mean no changes will happen unless new evidence comes to light?

The PRESIDENT: Just before the parliamentary secretary kicks off, I might just say to the member and everyone that it is always helpful not to have papers right on the microphone, because it blocks the sound a bit.

Hon ALANNA CLOHESY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

No, the review, and any potential regulatory changes, will not be solely dependent on any emerging medical and scientific evidence on the efficacy of medicinal cannabis.