

SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS — CORRESPONDENCE

252. Mr P. PAPALIA to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. Are these not the two shops that Hon Phil Edman brought to the minister's attention in June last year; and, if so, why has the minister not shut them down?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I do not think the member had his listening ears on when I was talking before. The reason we cannot shut them down is that the police have to actually catch them selling one of the illegal substances. In a perfect world, that would be an easy thing for police to attend to, but once Minister Morton —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, I call you to order for the second time! Now, minister, through the Chair, please.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: For example, police have been shutting down these premises. I know that the police executed a search warrant on one shop that was selling those substances. They found a collection of illegal substances, including equipment for smoking cannabis and a range of other drug paraphernalia. In the time between being charged and going to court, that person was back in business. As part of the first raid, police —

Mr P. Papalia: That's the other one we brought to your attention.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: No. The member for Warnbro does not even know which one I am talking about.

The SPEAKER: Member for Warnbro, I call you to order for the third time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: In the time between being charged and going to court and having had \$300 000 in cash seized from the premises, that person popped up back in business. The police did a secondary raid on the premises, confiscated another \$60 000 in cash and a range of other illegal substances, and that person will shortly be coming before the court. Police do manage to shut down these places when they raid them if they find banned substances. However, it is not as simple as the member for Warnbro would like to make out. Police are keeping a close watch on all these premises, and as they accumulate evidence, they will execute a raid and shut them down.