

MISUSE OF DRUGS AMENDMENT (PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES) ACT

540. Mr P.T. MILES to the Minister for Police:

Last year the Liberal–National government closed a loophole to ensure that all psychoactive substances are illegal. Can the minister please advise the house on Western Australia Police efforts to rid the community of synthetic drugs?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Wanneroo for this question. I enjoyed the opportunity to meet with some of the member's constituents at a particularly notorious retail outlet in his electorate earlier this year, and I share the community outrage that the operators of these retail outlets sell psychoactive substances to vulnerable people in our community. I am sure that members will recall that last November the Liberal–National government enacted legislation to ban the sale, supply and manufacture of psychoactive substances. I am pleased to inform the house that since this legislation was proclaimed, since November, retail outlets in Rockingham, Armadale, Victoria Park, Mandurah, Wanneroo and Highgate have been inspected, 4 573 items have been seized from these premises and as a result of these targeted operations detectives have preferred 314 charges against 18 individuals. Western Australians and the parents of our youth should feel reassured that this government will take action as required to give police the legislative tools that they need to shut down these places and stop the supply of psychoactive substances into our communities. Police will continue to be relentless with this crusade against the retail outlets that sell these psychoactive substances. I thank members in this house for supporting the legislation and its passage through this Parliament.