

CANNABIS — LAW ENFORCEMENT — COST

129. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

I refer the minister to the recently published Penington Institute report entitled *Cannabis in Australia 2022*, which, amongst a host of other highly relevant data, concludes that more than \$1.7 billion was spent on cannabis-related law enforcement in 2015–2016 across Australia.

- (1) Are figures available for the cannabis-related law enforcement spend here in Western Australia; and if so, how recent are those figures, and will the Attorney General table them?
- (2) If no to (1), will he instruct his own department and work with other colleagues, such as the Minister for Police and the Premier, to collate and publish such data on a regular basis going forward?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Police.

I note that the question is to the Minister for Police, but during it the honourable member asked whether the Attorney General would table them. Obviously, the Attorney General is a different person, and he would have to ask the Attorney General a different question.

- (1)–(3) The Western Australia Police Force advises that it is not possible for the agency to provide a response to these questions as cannabis-related costs to law enforcement are not captured in police holdings.