

MEDICAL CANNABIS

**186. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:**

I refer the minister to a recent publication by academics at the University of Sydney entitled *Knowledge, experiences, and attitudes of Australian general practitioners towards medicinal cannabis: A 2021–2022 survey* which concludes that “there is a clear need for improved training and education of GPs around cannabis-based medicines” with almost 67 per cent of GPs surveyed saying they felt they had inadequate knowledge in this area.

- (1) Is the Department of Health aware of this study, and does it support its conclusions as being equally relevant in Western Australia as they are across the rest of the commonwealth?
- (2) What education does the McGowan government currently provide to GPs in WA on the efficacy of medicinal cannabis?
- (3) If the answer to (2) is little or none, with the government preferring to leave this to the private sector, do the figures in this report not show that to be a flawed approach that needs to be urgently reassessed?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) The Department of Health was not aware of this study and cannot comment on whether the results of medical attitudes reported in this study can be directly extrapolated to Western Australian practitioners.
- (2) Currently, the Department of Health does not provide any specific clinical training for medical practitioners on the prescribing of cannabis-based medicines.
- (3) The Department of Health has not assessed the adequacy, or otherwise, of privately provided education for the medical sector in the use of cannabis-based products.