

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES — ALCOHOL RESTRICTIONS

112. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

I refer the minister to recent announcements by the Northern Territory government that it intends to hold localised votes in its remote communities to ascertain the level of support for alcohol restrictions going forward.

- (1) What restrictions are currently in place in parts of WA to restrict access to alcohol in predominantly Indigenous communities?
- (2) What consultation was undertaken before those restrictions were put in place, and what consultation, if any, has occurred since?
- (3) Does the McGowan government intend to mirror the actions of our Northern Territory neighbours and allow remote WA communities to vote on any future restrictions; and, if not, why not?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. On behalf of the Minister for Racing and Gaming, I provide the following answer.

- (1) The Liquor Control Act 1988 provides for Aboriginal communities to request that their local community be declared a dry community under section 175, which prohibits the supply, sale and consumption of alcohol within a specified area. The community applies for the restriction, and the decision is at the discretion of the minister.

There are currently 26 section 175 communities across the Pilbara, Kimberley and goldfields regions of WA. Further liquor restrictions have also been applied to communities within the Kimberley, Pilbara and goldfields under section 64 of the act.
- (2) In the first instance, the community must request a section 175 to impose a dry area. Once the request is received, consultation is undertaken with the local government, local WA police, and any relevant prescribed body corporates, Aboriginal organisations and community elders. Ultimately, the Aboriginal corporation with authority over the jurisdiction must provide a majority agreement that the section 175 be implemented, and stipulate the time period for review. The minister makes a decision based on the evidence presented demonstrating the preference of the community.
- (3) Dry communities under section 175 are already initiated at the community's request.