

HEMP OIL — OBESITY

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

I refer the Minister to a recent paper entitled *Foodomics reveals anti-obesity properties of cannabinoids from hemp oil*, published in the journal *Molecular Nutrition and Food Research*.

- (1) What portion of the WA population is considered to be medically obese? Has that figure grown over the last decade; and, if it has, to what degree?
- (2) Does the Department of Health recognise a socioeconomic correlation between families on a low income and instances of obesity?
- (3) What is the Cook government doing to tackle obesity and its related complications? Do those measures include consideration of a compassionate-access scheme for those unable to afford medicinal cannabis at current market prices; and, if not, why not?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) The prevalence of obesity in the Western Australian adult population has increased from 26.6 per cent in 2010 to 33.6 per cent in 2020.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) A range of measures are currently in place across the WA health system to prevent and treat obesity. Measures do not include consideration of a compassionate-access scheme in relation to medicinal cannabis. Mechanisms are already in place within WA Health that permit access to high-cost, unfunded medicines in exceptional circumstances. Government funding of individual independent or privately-operated compassionate-access programs for medicines is not supported.

There is a footnote to that answer: Epidemiology Directorate, 2021, *Health and wellbeing of adults in Western Australia 2020*, Department of Health, Western Australia.