

CANNABIS — IMPORTATION AND CULTIVATION

306. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

I refer the minister to recent reports by the ABC suggesting that a loophole is allowing importers to bring foreign-grown cannabis into Australia, to the detriment of domestic growers, with the final product often being labelled as “made in Australia” when it is only packaged here.

- (1) Is the minister aware of this loophole?
- (2) Is the minister further aware of claims that up to 30 per cent of imports from Canada, the largest supplier of cannabis to Australia, do not match the strength of the active ingredients listed on the label?
- (3) Will the minister raise this issue at the next Australian Health Ministers’ Meeting in the hope that an Australia-wide approach can be implemented to protect both patients and local growers; and, if not, why not?

Hon PIERRE YANG replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided by the minister.

- (1)–(3) Importation, cultivation, manufacture and labelling of medicinal cannabis products is regulated by the commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care through the Office of Drug Control and the Therapeutic Goods Administration.