

CANNABIS — LEGALISATION

672. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer the minister to recent articles in the French press, most notably in *Le Parisien*, noting that in spite of having some of the harshest anti-cannabis laws in Europe, France has one of the highest instances of cannabis use, with 46 per cent of its population having tried the healing herb at some point.

- (1) Given that local figures show that we have more cannabis users than smokers across Australia, will the Cook government concede that the war against cannabis has been both a waste of resources and counterproductive, as the French experience clearly shows us?
- (2) Will Mr Cook take this opportunity early in his premiership to commit his government to WA Labor's own platform policy in favour of decriminalisation; and, if not, why not?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question and I am resisting the temptation provided by my colleagues to answer him in French!

- (1)–(2) The state government has no plans to amend existing cannabis laws.