

CANNABIS — RESEARCH

**243. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the minister representing the Minister for Health:**

I refer the minister to a recent edition of *The Context with John Barron* subtitled “The Battle Against Smoking”, screened nationally on the ABC, which noted that although 11 per cent of Australian’s still smoke daily, more people—11.6 per cent—consume cannabis on a regular basis. Noting those statistics, I ask the following.

- (1) Does the Department of Health acknowledge those figures as accurate?
- (2) How much money did the department allocate to tobacco-based health campaigns in the last financial year?
- (3) Will the minister commit to allocating the same level of resources to research into cannabis trends and outcomes in the coming year?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) According to the *National drug strategy household survey 2019*, 11 per cent of Australians over 14 years smoke daily and 11.6 per cent of Australians over 14 years consumed cannabis in the past 12 months.
- (2) The allocation was \$2 742 772, excluding GST.
- (3) There are existing robust and longitudinal data sources that enable us to identify cannabis trends and health and social outcomes at a national and local jurisdictional level. This includes the *National drug strategy household survey*, the Australian secondary school students alcohol and drug survey and the Western Australian health and wellbeing surveillance system.