

MEDICAL CANNABIS

**1452. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:**

I refer the minister to a recent research paper published by a combination of clinicians and academics based at the University of Sydney and the University of Western Australia that concludes that access to medicinal cannabis led to significant, clinically meaningful improvements in overall health-related quality of life and fatigue in patients with chronic health conditions.

- (1) Will the minister join me in congratulating the researchers concerned on the production of what appears to be one of the largest studies of its kind to date?
- (2) Taking on board the conclusions that a range of chronic health conditions, as well as anxiety, depression and pain, showed meaningful improvements over the course of the study, what does the Cook government propose to do during the remainder of this Parliament to help make medicinal cannabis more affordable and accessible to patients here in WA?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) The government supports Western Australian involvement in high-quality research across all medical therapies.
- (2) The government supports access to approved medicines for the Western Australian community through the commonwealth pharmaceutical benefits scheme. For high-cost or unapproved medicines, the government will maintain existing access mechanisms for patients in exceptional circumstances through WA Health. The government is progressing regulatory reforms to remove barriers to prescribing medicinal cannabis products, as recommended by the Select Committee into Cannabis and Hemp.