

MEDICAL CANNABIS — RESEARCH

**1425. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:**

I refer the minister to a recent study by US academics that suggests alcohol, cannabis and nicotine each have distinct associations with COVID-19 pandemic-related experiences, alongside research suggesting that cannabis users, in particular, had far better medical outcomes during the pandemic, including a dramatically lower mortality rate of 2.9 per cent compared with 13.5 per cent.

- (1) Were any of these trends mirrored in the data collated by our local independent review into Western Australia's COVID-19 management and response conducted between February and June of 2023?
- (2) Did that review look at cannabis use at all; and, if not, why not?
- (3) How does the Department of Health plan to incorporate these various research findings into its own assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic to better inform future health measures in Western Australia?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) No.
- (2) No. In relation to health outcomes from COVID-19, the terms of reference focused on the impact of public health levers.
- (3) The Department of Health reviews relevant research findings in relation to all disease outcomes, including from infectious diseases such as COVID-19, as part of continuous improvement of care.