

MEDICAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY — EMPLOYMENT

**811. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Industrial Relations:**

I refer the minister to a recent paper published by researchers at the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of California calling for governments to give serious consideration to specific occupational health and safety advice aimed at those cultivating cannabis legally for use in the medicinal industry.

- (1) Approximately how many workers are currently employed by authorised cannabis growers across WA?
- (2) Is the government aware of any concerns having been raised locally in terms of occupational health and safety issues specific to the medicinal cannabis industry here in the state?

**Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I answer on behalf of the parliamentary secretary representing. The following response has been provided by the Minister for Industrial Relations.

- (1) Data concerning employment within the authorised cannabis industry in Western Australia is not readily available. A small number of licensees are currently authorised by the commonwealth government's Office of Drug Control to grow medicinal cannabis in Western Australia. However, it is not possible to determine how many people are employed in this industry. Each licensee is responsible for their own employment arrangements. The Australian Bureau of Statistics does not presently maintain industry-specific data for this subindustry.
- (2) The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, WorkSafe, has received a small number of inquiries about the use of medical cannabis in industry and workers' rights and responsibilities associated with the use of medical cannabis, but not about the cultivation or processing of medicinal cannabis.