

CANNABIS — YOUNG PEOPLE

1646. Hon Dr Brian Walker to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health; Mental Health:

I refer the Minister to recent longitudinal studies of youth, published in the US Journal of Preventative Medicine, which conclude that young people are no more less likely to use cannabis in jurisdictions which have legalised recreational use for adults, than they are in states which have not, and I ask:

- (a) how many under 18's have presented to WA hospitals in the last twelve months as a direct or indirect result of cannabis use;
- (b) what percentage of presentations in (a), involving cannabis does that amount to; and
- (c) will the Minister take this latest research into account when considering juvenile outcomes in any future debate on drug reform in Western Australia?

**Hon Sue Ellery replied:**

- (a) 70 attendance.
- (b) 20.7% of emergency presentations that involve cannabis are patients under 18 years.
- (c) The State Government monitors national and international research and data related to the long-term impacts of cannabis decriminalisation and legalisation on use, harm and other social outcomes. This also includes the consideration of research related to young people's use of cannabis, including impacts on the developing brain and associated harms.