

MEDICAL CANNABIS — WORKPLACE DRUG TESTING

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

I refer the minister to the recent announcement that her counterpart in New South Wales has agreed to meet with a delegation of medicinal cannabis experts and patients to discuss workplace drug testing, and in light of Rio Tinto's decision last month to discriminate against all and any employees who have a medical cannabis prescription, I ask the following.

- (1) Does the Cook government support the right of all workers to seek and enjoy appropriate and legally permissible medical attention without discrimination?
- (2) Will the minister associate herself with Minister Cotsis's comments when she said referring to medicinal cannabis patients, "we need to make sure that we, as a government, are accommodating particularly those people who are undertaking treatment or have got chronic illness"?
- (3) Will the Minister for Commerce agree to meet with a similar group of experts here in Western Australia to discuss the self-same issues faced by Western Australian workers; and, if not, why not?

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I note that this question was originally directed to the Minister for Commerce and was redirected to the Minister for Industrial Relations, and it is important to understand the answer in that context.

- (1)–(2) Yes, so long as parameters under the Work Health and Safety Act 2020 are met.
- (3) Noting that the question should have been addressed to the Minister for Industrial Relations, the minister gives genuine consideration to all meeting requests.