

NATIONAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL RESEARCH CENTRE —
CANNABIS CAUTIONING SCHEME

839. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

I refer the minister to a recent paper produced by academics at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at the University of New South Wales, which concluded that, based on a New South Wales model, the extension of the current cannabis cautioning scheme to all drug use and possession offences has the potential to more than halve judicial costs.

Was the minister aware of this research and, having had it brought to his attention, will he consider it as a possible future approach here in Western Australia; and, if not, why not?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Police.

It is not a priority of the Cook Labor government to modify the existing laws and penalties in place regarding cannabis possession and use.