

CANNABIS — UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS

38. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Education:

I refer the minister to a recent study published in the January edition of the peer-reviewed journal *Contemporary Economic Policy*, which found that states in the United States that had legalised recreational cannabis had seen a 5.5 per cent increase in public college and university applications compared with states that had not yet legalised cannabis, alongside a noticeably higher standard of applications.

- (1) What increase, if any, in university applications have we seen in WA since the pandemic, and what projected figures, if any, do we have going forward?
- (2) Will the minister urge his department to consider this latest research, which could yield important insights into university admissions, especially in terms of WA's attractiveness to interstate and international applicants?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?

Hon JACKIE JARVIS replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following response, which I provide on behalf of the Leader of the House, has been provided by the Minister for Education.

- (1) It is not possible to answer this question in the time available and I therefore ask the honourable member to place this question on notice.
- (2) No.
- (3) Although not familiar with the study to which the honourable member referred, I do not consider legalising the recreational use of cannabis to be a valid university student recruitment strategy.