

NATIONAL WASTEWATER DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM

**519. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Water:**

I refer the minister to the recent national wastewater drug monitoring program report, published late last year, which suggests that cannabis is more heavily used in regional parts of Australia than it is in our capital cities.

- (1) Which department undertakes the practical monitoring of wastewater here in Western Australia, and what input, if any, does the state government have to these national figures?
- (2) Given the steady rise in medicinal cannabis prescriptions across Western Australia, is our local water testing able to distinguish between prescribed medicinal cannabis and more illicit forms of the plant?
- (3) If the answer to (2) is that it cannot, what value do the figures have as a measure of illicit drug use, at least for cannabis?

**Hon PIERRE YANG replied:**

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

- (1)–(3) The national wastewater drug monitoring program is an Australian federal government program. As such, all questions relating to this program need to be directed to the Australian federal government.