

MEDICAL CANNABIS — RESEARCH

**451. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:**

I refer the minister to the recent paper from University of Western Australia's Professor Alistair Vickery *A large Australian longitudinal cohort registry demonstrates sustained safety and efficacy of oral medicinal cannabis for at least two years*, which was published in the peer-reviewed journal of the Public Library of Science.

- (1) Is the minister aware of this research and its conclusions —

Oral MC was demonstrated to be safe and well-tolerated for a sustained period in a large complex cohort of cannabis-naïve, multimorbid patients with polypharmacy. There was significant improvement ... across all measured clinical outcomes over two years.

- (2) What impact, if any, will this research have on the way in which we allow medical professionals to prescribe medicinal cannabis here in Western Australia?
- (3) Will the minister raise this significant piece of local research with her federal and interstate colleagues when the question of medicinal cannabis on the pharmaceutical benefits scheme is next discussed?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1)–(3) Medical practitioners are already permitted to prescribe medicinal cannabis within the requirement of the regulations. The state government supports the listing of medicinal cannabis on the pharmaceutical benefits scheme whenever these products meet national standards for quality, efficacy and safety consistent with all other prescription medicines.