

MEDICAL CANNABIS — RESEARCH

1369. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the minister representing the Minister for Veterans Issues:

I refer the minister to the numerous studies that have been undertaken to assess the efficacy of cannabis as a treatment for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, the most recent of which was authored by clinicians at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and the Uniformed Services University in the United States.

- (1) Is the minister aware of any studies having been conducted into cannabis use amongst veterans here in WA or more broadly across Australia?
- (2) In his role as Minister for Veterans Issues, how many WA veterans and/or their carers have approached the minister during this Parliament about the accessibility of medicinal cannabis for veterans suffering from pain and PTSD, and what assistance, if any, has he been able to offer them?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

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

- (1)–(2) As the honourable member has been previously advised, it is not a priority of the Cook Labor government to make changes to the existing laws regarding cannabis possession and use, and I have not been approached about this matter by veterans.