

MEDICAL CANNABIS — TOURETTE SYNDROME

1154. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

I refer the minister to a recent study undertaken by researchers at the University of Sydney, being hailed as —

... the first robust clinical study proving that medicinal cannabis effectively treats the debilitating effects of Tourette syndrome.

- (1) Noting that Tourette syndrome affects about one per cent of the national population, and is four times more common in men than women, does the Department of Health have any figures indicating the prevalence of Tourette syndrome here in Western Australia?
- (2) Is the government aware that a number of leading medical institutions, including Great Ormond Street Hospital and St Thomas' Hospital in the United Kingdom, have noted a sharp increase in Tourette syndrome diagnosis during and since the pandemic, and is there any evidence to suggest a similar trend here?
- (3) Will the Department of Health consider creating a treatment and diagnosis framework for Tourette syndrome, as called for by the Tourette Syndrome Association of Australia, and will it consider including cannabis oil as a potential part of any such framework?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) No.
- (2) The Department of Health notes the information relates specifically to evidence in the UK. The first national conference on long COVID in Australia, convened by the Victorian Agency for Health Information, broadly covered the health outcomes from the pandemic in Australia and did not include any reference to Tourette syndrome.
- (3) The Department of Health notes the call by the Tourette Syndrome Association of Australia for the development of a treatment and diagnosis framework. The development of a framework would require a partnership with the commonwealth Department of Health. Emerging evidence for valid treatment options would be considered.