

MEDICAL CANNABIS — PHARMACIST TRAINING

1064. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

I refer the minister to a recent paper titled “A cross-sectional survey exploring the knowledge, experiences and attitudes of Australian pharmacists toward medicinal cannabis”, which cited 94 per cent of respondents as believing that they would benefit from further training in this area.

- (1) What training is currently available to pharmacists in Western Australia on dispensing medicinal cannabis?
- (2) What more can the government do to fill the obvious knowledge gap that exists across the sector, and might a medicinal cannabis advisory service be one tool to upskill pharmacists in this area?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) Pharmacists are responsible for maintaining their own professional competency to dispense prescription medicines, which includes dispensing special access scheme medicines such as medicinal cannabis. Training required to maintain these competencies is delivered by the professional bodies.
- (2) The scope of feasibility studies into the establishment of a medicinal cannabis advisory service could include any registered health practitioners who may have reason to access such a service for the prescribing, administration or dispensing of a medicinal cannabis product.