

CANNABIS — RESEARCH

**1052. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:**

I refer the minister to a recent paper entitled “Understanding and Rebalancing: A Rapid Scoping Review of Cannabis Research Among Indigenous People”, published in the June 2023 edition of *Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research*.

- (1) Is the department of Aboriginal affairs aware of any evidence that would substantiate or, indeed, undermine the researchers’ conclusion that there are “significant gaps” in empirical studies examining the lived experience of Indigenous peoples worldwide in relation to cannabis use, as far as Indigenous peoples here in Western Australia are concerned?
- (2) What local research, if any, has been undertaken on the use of cannabis within our Indigenous communities here in Western Australia, and does the department have any plans to encourage such research going forward?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) The department of Aboriginal affairs ceased to exist in 2017. The Western Australian government notes the significant volume of published and ongoing research into medicinal cannabis over recent years.
- (2) The WA government encourages and supports research with priority population groups and areas of emerging health and medical technology, and a number of funding programs and avenues for researchers exist on this basis. There is no existing barrier for researchers into medicinal cannabis to apply for and receive funding through these established channels.