

CANNABIS INTERVENTION SESSIONS

**1248. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:**

I refer the minister to section 8J of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1981, which deals with cannabis intervention sessions and the powers of the CEO of the Department of Health with regard to the same.

- (1) How many treatment providers have been authorised by the CEO of Health to provide cannabis intervention sessions and how diverse are their locations?
- (2) Have any conditions been placed upon any of those authorised providers under section 8J(2)(c) of the act; and, if so, what are those conditions?
- (3) Have any of the authorised providers had their authorisation cancelled or amended since they were granted?
- (4) What is the overall cost to the government for the provision of cannabis intervention sessions across WA on an annual basis?

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

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

- (1) The Mental Health Commission currently contracts 14 organisations that provide this service in every health region in Western Australia.
- (2) Service providers are bound by the following contractual requirements: to provide priority access in the specified region for participants required to complete a cannabis intervention session; to allocate and maintain agreed 90-minute CIS regular booking slots by specified frequency and location according to the number and location specified in their agreement; to provide face-to-face, person-centred, best practice CIS delivery by trained alcohol and other drug counsellors free of charge, as agreed with the diversion participant; to provide induction and operational support of relevant staff undertaking CIS; and to liaise as required with the MHC booking service and the Western Australia Police Force drug diversion team to support effective and efficient delivery of CIS.
- (3) A number of organisations have ceased providing CIS due to lack of demand or an alternative alcohol and other drug service provider being available in the region.
- (4) I am advised the Mental Health Commission is not able to provide the requested information in the time required.