

CANNABINOID-DERIVED COMPOUNDS — CANCER TREATMENT

156. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

Will the minister join me in congratulating the research team at the University of Western Australia who, in conjunction with colleagues at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and Charles Darwin University, have found cannabinoid-derived compounds have the potential to function as anti-cancer agents against melanoma cells, and can the minister tell me the following?

- (1) How prevalent is skin cancer in Western Australia?
- (2) What is the Cook government is doing to combat melanomas, which cause more than 80 per cent of related skin cancer deaths nationwide?
- (3) What role, if any, is the Cook government likely to have in funding or otherwise supporting this promising research as it moves towards human trials?

The PRESIDENT: I call the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health, noting that the question sought an awful lot of information and I hope the honourable member's answer is concise.

Hon PIERRE YANG replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following has been provided by the Minister for Health.

- (1) In 2019, melanoma was the third most common cancer in Western Australia, with 1 634 cases, or 11.5 per cent.
- (2) Each major teaching hospital in Perth has its own skin cancer clinic. The WA government continues to fund the ongoing management of melanoma cases, particularly complex or advanced cases, through its support of the WA Kirkbride Melanoma Advisory Service and Sun Smart campaigns through the Cancer Council WA. In addition, the future health research and innovation fund is the state government's primary vehicle for the provision of health and medical research and innovation funding. To date, \$1.84 million has been awarded toward research when melanoma is the primary focus.
- (3) The Cook government is constantly reviewing new, safe and well-evidenced treatment methods.