

BRIEF MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

MINISTER FOR HEALTH

Education and Health Standing Committee Report Number 9: Changing Patterns Of Illicit Drug Use In Western Australia - Government's Response

Mr Speaker, the Education and Health Standing Committee recently conducted an Inquiry into the Adequacy and Appropriateness of Prevention and Treatment Services for Alcohol and Illicit Drug Problems in Western Australia and on 26 May 2011 tabled its Report Number 9 titled - "*Changing patterns of illicit drug use in Western Australia*".

Today, on behalf of the Minister for Mental Health, I formally table the responses to the recommendations contained in the Report on behalf of the Government.

The Report made 24 recommendations and sought responses to those recommendations from the Ministers with the portfolios of Mental Health, Health, Police and Corrective Services and the Attorney General.

Illicit drug use is an issue of great concern to the Western Australian community, and this Government remains committed to addressing the demand and supply of illicit drugs.

Many of the issues raised in the report are already being addressed by various Government strategies. For example the timely introduction of the *Cannabis Law Reform Act 2010* has now established a new scheme to deal with adult and juvenile minor cannabis offences and provides treatment and support options for those who need it.

Only one recommendation is not supported. This recommendation relates to the mandatory recording of disease and physical injury associated with alcohol and other drugs in hospital discharge summaries. The current classification system used by the Department of Health is already consistent with national and international coding standards.

I table the Government's response.