

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**  
**HON ALANNA CLOHESY MLC**  
**PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH**  
**SELECT COMMITTEE INTO ALTERNATE APPROACHES TO REDUCING ILLICIT**  
**DRUG USE AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE COMMUNITY- FINAL REPORT**  
**STATE RESPONSE UPDATE**  
**11 FEBRUARY 2020**

Madam President

I rise to provide the house with an update on the progression of a whole-of-government response to the Select Committee into Alternate Approaches to Reducing Illicit Drug Use and its Effects on the Community Final Report: Help, not Handcuffs: Evidence-based Approaches to Reducing Harm from Illicit Drug Use.

Before I do I would like to thank the Committee members for their comprehensive review into approaches to reducing harms from illicit drug use. I would also like to thank all those who gave evidence and provided submissions to the Inquiry.

The Legislative Council established the Select Committee on 17 October 2018.

The Select Committee considered approaches in other jurisdictions and compared their effectiveness to the approaches currently used in Western Australia.

The inquiry was specifically about illicit drugs, although the Select Committee heard about the high levels of harm associated with alcohol and prescription drugs. Importantly, the inquiry was concerned with drug users, and not people involved in the drug trade. The Select Committee inquired into approaches to addressing the use and possession of drugs for personal use, and not possession with intent to sell or supply, or the distribution of drugs.

The Select Committee's Final Report was tabled in the Legislative Council on 28 November 2019. Given the significance of the topic, the links to the Methamphetamine Action Plan Taskforce Final Report, and the potential implications associated with the implementation of recommendations, a state-wide, whole-of-government response is preferred to individual agency responses. To accommodate this, the Mental Health Commission (in collaboration with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet) is leading the process for a robust, collaborative Western Australian Government response. The response would normally be tabled by 23 January 2020, but due to the need for collaboration across government agencies it has been delayed.

Subject to Cabinet's endorsement, the response to the Final Report will now be tabled as soon as possible.

I commend the Mental Health Commission for leading this process and encourage all agencies to recognise the importance of the Select Committee's Final Report.