

DRUG LAW REFORM, WORKING PARTY REPORT

859. Mr WHITELY to the Minister for Health:

Has the minister received the report of the ministerial working party chaired by John Prior?

Mr KUCERA replied:

As members would be aware, following the Western Australian Community Drug Summit, the State Government set up a ministerial working party to make recommendations to the Government on drug law reform. That is the Prior committee, to which the member has referred. I have been informed that the report will be presented to me on Tuesday, 2 April. The Government will carefully consider the recommendations of the report. As previously stated, I intend to make the recommendations of the report public after the Government has considered the matter. I look forward to making a further statement to the Parliament in the weeks ahead.

It is interesting to note the recent Westpoll results on drug law reform. There has been one change in one Westpoll. If one were to take a Westpoll as a very clear indication of statistics, I suspect that the Leader of the Opposition would no longer be leader. The media involvement in the question of drug reform has been outstanding in that they have addressed the question in a measured and sensible way. The feeling that was shown at the end of that summit in the people's House was incredible. We saw true democracy in operation. The people of this community spoke in a balanced way about how we must approach the whole issue of drug reform. They did not go about taking photo opportunities and carrying on like Cheech and Chong saying, "Let's make a dope deal", as we saw last week, and denigrate the excellent work that was done by that forum in this House.