

**41ST PARLIAMENT**



## **Interim Report**

### **SELECT COMMITTEE INTO CANNABIS AND HEMP**

*Inquiry into Cannabis and Hemp – Extension of time*

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Presented by  
Hon Dr Brian Walker MLC (Chair)

August 2022

## Select Committee into Cannabis and Hemp

### Members as at the time of this inquiry:

Hon Dr Brian Walker MLC (Chair)

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC (Deputy Chair)

Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC

Hon Lorna Harper MLC

### Staff as at the time of this inquiry:

Laura Hutchinson (Advisory Officer (Legal))

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# Select Committee into Cannabis and Hemp

## Extension of time

- 1.1 On 13 October 2021, the Legislative Council established the Cannabis and Hemp Select Committee (the Committee) to inquire into and report on:
  - the potential to amend the current legislation and regulations which apply to cannabis and hemp in Western Australia, with particular reference to —
  - (a) the current barriers to pharmaceutical and nutraceutical use of cannabinoid products;
  - (b) medicinal cannabis, its prescription, availability and affordability; and
  - (c) the potential benefits and risks of permitting industrial hemp for human consumption.
- 1.2 The reporting date is 12 October 2022, being the last sitting day no later than 12 months after the Committee was established.
- 1.3 The Committee wrote to 114 stakeholders inviting them to make a written submission to the inquiry. The Committee received 81 written submissions, of which 76 were accepted. Public submissions can be viewed on the Committee's [website](#).
- 1.4 In the week commencing 28 March 2022, the Committee held 22 hearings with a range of parties, including members of the public, medical practitioners, peak bodies, hemp growers, medicinal producers and government departments.
- 1.5 In April 2022, the Committee attended the Australian Medicinal Cannabis Symposium, hosted by United in Compassion.
- 1.6 In May 2022, the Committee conducted site visits to a number of medicinal cannabis and hemp growers and producers in the South West of the State.
- 1.7 In the week commencing 22 August 2022, the Committee will conduct further hearings with the Department of Health, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Unions WA and Private Healthcare Australia.
- 1.8 The Committee has resolved to travel to Israel, Germany and the Czech Republic to meet face-to-face with international counterparts and stakeholders. The Committee originally resolved to undertake this travel during July, but this proved unsuitable due to scheduling issues during the European summer recess. The Committee has resolved to complete this travel in late October.
- 1.9 On 21 June 2022, the Committee resolved to seek an extension of time in which to report to the Legislative Council.
- 1.10 The Committee has gathered a large volume of evidence in the inquiry and requires an extension of time to properly consider the evidence, conduct further research and obtain further evidence from stakeholders.
- 1.11 An extension of time will enable the Committee to properly discharge its reporting obligation and provide a more comprehensive report to the Legislative Council.

- 1.12 Based on the above, the Committee therefore requests an extension of time in which to report from 12 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian Walker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hon Dr Brian Walker MLC  
**Chair**

## Select Committee into Cannabis and Hemp

### Date first appointed:

13 October 2021

### Terms of Reference:

- (1) A Select Committee to be known as the Cannabis and Hemp Select Committee, is established.
- (2) The Select Committee is to inquire into and report on the potential to amend the current legislation and regulations which apply to cannabis and hemp in Western Australia, with particular reference to —
  - (a) the current barriers to pharmaceutical and nutraceutical use of cannabinoid products;
  - (b) medicinal cannabis, its prescription, availability and affordability; and
  - (c) the potential benefits and risks of permitting industrial hemp for human consumption.
- (3) The Select Committee shall consist of five members, namely: Hon Dr Brian Walker (Chair); Hon Matthew Swinbourn (Deputy Chair); Hon Jackie Jarvis; Hon Lorna Harper and Hon James Hayward.
- (4) The Select Committee may table interim reports, and is to table its final report by no later than 12 months after the committee has been established.



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