

CANNABIS — METHAMPHETAMINE USE

**1577. Hon WILSON TUCKER to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:**

I ask this question on behalf of the good doctor who is away on urgent parliamentary business. I refer the minister to a recent paper published in the *Addictive Behaviours* journal based on Canadian research that suggests that cannabis can be an effective tool to manage stimulant cravings, not least among those trying to break an addiction to crystal methamphetamine, also known as ice.

- (1) What impacts is the ongoing ice epidemic having on our public health system here in Western Australia?
- (2) What is the Cook government doing to tackle this scourge?
- (3) Will the minister share the data presented in this paper with her cabinet colleagues as a practical example of how cannabis can help, rather than hinder, our attempts to tackle methamphetamine use here in WA?

**The PRESIDENT:** Just to be clear, honourable member, you are asking that question on behalf of Hon Dr Brian Walker?

**Hon WILSON TUCKER:** Yes.

**Hon SUE ELLERY replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Alcohol and other drug problems, including methamphetamine use, result in health, social and economic impacts. In 2022, 2.1 per cent of Western Australians reported using methamphetamines. There is a reference to that as a footnote.
- (2) The state government implemented an across-government methamphetamine action plan to address issues relating to demand, supply and harm. The state government committed over \$600 million to implement the methamphetamine action plan initiatives from 2017–18 to 2026–27.
- (3) The state government continuously monitors national and international research and data related to the long-term impacts of cannabis decriminalisation and legalisation on use, harm and other social outcomes.