

UNREGULATED DISPENSING OF MEDICINES AND VACCINES VIA GENETICALLY MODIFIED
FOODS

152. Hon JIM SCOTT to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Minister for Health aware that the Director General of Agriculture, Graeme Robertson, is on record promoting the use of genetically modified foods to supply the community with medicines and vaccines via cereals and other foods?
- (2) Does the Minister for Health approve the dispensing of medicines and vaccines via genetically modified cereals, breads and other foods without medical supervision and approval?
- (3) Did the Department of Health confer with Dr Robertson prior to his statement, or did it provide him with any advice on the unregulated dispensing of medicines and vaccines via genetically modified cereals, breads and other foods?
- (4) Will the minister take steps to ensure that the Western Australian public is not put at risk by the unregulated dispensing of vaccines from supermarkets and corner stores?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The Department of Health has been advised by Dr Robertson that far from promoting the use of GM foods to supply medicines and vaccines, the intent of his comments were to inform the community that such opportunities are becoming possible and that the sciences of functional foods, nutraceuticals and medically beneficial foods must be considered in the future of food industries.
- (2) At present there are no genetically modified foods available to deliver medicines and vaccines to the community, nor are there any available for government consideration.
- (3) No.
- (4) The public of Western Australia is currently protected from the unregulated dispensing of medicines and vaccines by the Poisons Act 1964 and the Pharmacy Act 1964.