

CANNABIS — OFFENCES

892. Hon SOPHIA MOERMOND to the minister representing the Minister for Police:

I refer to the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research's report *Why are Aboriginal adults less likely to receive cannabis cautions?* released in June 2023 that showed around 78 per cent of Aboriginal people proceeded against for a cannabis offence were ineligible to receive a caution, compared with 45 per cent of non-Aboriginal people under NSW's cannabis cautioning scheme.

- (1) Is there a similar level of inequity of cautioning decisions received by Aboriginal people in the Western Australian justice system?
- (2) Is there any data available that shows the ethnicity of individuals receiving a cannabis intervention requirement under the Misuse of Drugs Act; and, if not, why not?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer has been provided to me by the Minister for Police.

The Western Australia Police Force advises the following.

- (1) No. The WA Police Force's application of drug diversion for cannabis and other illicit drugs allows for intervention requirement notices to be issued, not cautions. Issuance of these notices has been analysed in the past and did not reveal inequity.
- (2) Yes. The WA Police Force captures the stated ethnicity and ethnic appearance of persons processed for an offence with a cannabis intervention requirement. This data is captured within the WA Police Force's incident management system.