

MUSIC FESTIVALS — PILL TESTING

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

I refer to the recent announcement by the Queensland government to introduce pill testing at music festivals—the second state or territory government to do so—and the death of another young person at a music festival last week in Tasmania.

- (1) Will the government reconsider its blanket refusal to introduce pill testing at music festivals, given the large number of events that are held in WA each year?
- (2) Does the government have any solutions to prevent substance-related deaths at music festivals in WA?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

On behalf of the minister representing the Minister for Police, I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question, which was redirected to the Minister for Mental Health.

- (1) No.
- (2) The McGowan government funds and delivers a range of targeted strategies to reduce the risk of drug-related harms and deaths at events. This includes —
 - (a) the Western Australia Department of Health *Guidelines for concerts, events and organised gatherings 2022*, which prescribes requirements for concerts, events and organised gatherings to ensure that places are safe for patrons, including the management of drug-related issues at events;
 - (b) the Safer Events and Venues campaign, as part of the Drug Aware public education program, which targets high-risk settings, including music festivals and night venues, to reduce harm associated with MDMA use;
 - (c) training stakeholders to provide services during school leavers events, including responding to alcohol and other drug issues, engaging with young people and teaching harm-reduction strategies; and
 - (d) convening an interagency group to consider opportunities to implement strategies to optimise safety at music festivals.