

Legislative Council



MEDIA RELEASE

10 November 2021

Inquiry into Cannabis and Hemp

The Select Committee into Cannabis and Hemp held a scheduled meeting on Monday 8 November 2021, at which time the appointment of its Chair, Hon Dr Brian Walker MLC, as a strategic consultant to Creso Pharma, was discussed.

Dr Walker declared that appointment to fellow Committee Members, but informed them that he had resigned from the position on the morning of the meeting, believing that the appointment had become untenable after concerns were raised around commercial interests and his role on the Committee. He therefore has no declarable conflict of interest in terms of Standing Order 165 of the Standing Orders of the Legislative Council.

Dr Walker currently has no outstanding obligations in terms of the *Members of Parliament (Financial Interest) Act 1992*, having lodged his return for the period 25 May to 30 June 2021. The interest would not have been declarable in writing until the annual return due in September of next year.

Nevertheless, the Committee resolved at the meeting as follows:

- that all Members must disclose any conflict of interest arising out of the subject matter of the inquiry, whether they be pecuniary or otherwise. Such conflicts must be declared to the Committee, at the earliest opportunity, in addition to any disclosures made to the Legislative Council under normal lodgment requirements.
- that any member with a conflict of interest arising out of the subject matter of the inquiry must recuse him or herself from any hearings or deliberations that may be affected by that conflict of interest.
- that 'Conflicts of interest' appears as an agenda item at each meeting of the Committee.

For inquiries in relation to this release, contact Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC, Deputy Chair on 0427 244 147.

Select Committee on Cannabis and Hemp