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State Government Reverses Labor's Failed Cannabis Laws

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton said the repeal of Labor's soft-on-drugs cannabis legislation would send a clear anti-drugs message to the community.

"During the election, one of the first policies Colin Barnett and I announced was the repeal of Labor's ineffective cannabis legislation," said Dr Nahan.

"I am proud that, last week in State Parliament, legislation passed through both Houses of Parliament, which will repeal Labor's Cannabis Control Act and make changes to the Misuse of Drugs Act and the Young Offenders Act."

Dr Nahan said Labor's soft legislation sent the wrong message to young people that it was okay to try, use and cultivate cannabis.

"Labor's legislation decriminalised cannabis use and cultivation, and it went too far by normalising the use of such a harmful drug," said Dr Nahan.

"Medical research has clearly shown that cannabis is not a soft or harmless drug. It is in fact a gateway drug and its use increases the risk of mental illness such as schizophrenia."

Dr Nahan said the Liberal-led Government's new laws will:

- Reduce the possession limit for cannabis from 30g to 10g. If you are caught with 10g or more of cannabis, you will be prosecuted. It will be a criminal offence. 10 grams of cannabis equates to about 10-20 joints. Labor's 30g limit was far too high – those sorts of quantities are clearly more than what could be deemed for personal use.
- Prosecute all cultivation of cannabis plants. Labor allowed people to grow up to two plants. We will not tolerate any cultivation of cannabis. If you grow a plant, you are committing a crime and will be prosecuted.
- Totally ban the sale of cannabis smoking paraphernalia such as pipes and bongs to anyone. Currently it is only an offence to sell cannabis smoking implements to children.
- Increase fines for the sale of smoking implements. (The current penalty for this is a fine of up to \$5,000 or \$25,000 for a body corporate. The new laws will allow for fines of up to \$10,000 for sale to an adult and up to \$24,000 or imprisonment for up to 2 years for sale to a minor. Bodies corporate will be fined equivalent to five times these amounts. In addition, the offence of selling to a minor can be taken into account under the Working With Children legislation)

For more information on the new legislation, please contact Dr Nahan's office on 9457 1282.

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