



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
BEC CODY MLA (CHAIR), VICKI DUNNE MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), CAROLINE LE COUTEUR MLA

Inquiry into Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Bill 2018
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE #5

Asked by Caroline Le Couteur MLA -

In relation to Children:

1. How will "out of reach of children" be defined and how will places where you can smoke be defined to protect children but still allow cannabis to be smoked, for instance in apartment buildings?
2. What will be the situation for under 18 year old's, who I understand will not be permitted to possess cannabis under this bill, if they are found to have it?

The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

1. The Government's proposed amendment that cannabis be kept out of reach of children will require that adults take reasonable steps to ensure cannabis is not accessible to children, for example by storing it in a locked container or a place that is not accessible by children. A separate amendment is proposed to prevent children being exposed to passive smoke from a cannabis user. As outlined in the Government's advice to the Committee, the Government's amendment would change the 20 metre exclusion zone included in the Private Member's Bill to be an offence of knowingly exposing a child to cannabis smoke. This is considered a more practical and appropriate approach, particularly in the case of individuals who may live in medium or high density housing. Any prohibition of smoking that applies to a multi-unit development under owners corporation rules will also apply to cannabis smoking.
2. The Private Member's Bill amends the definition of a simple cannabis offence such that persons under 18 years of can be issued with a Simple Cannabis Offence Notice for possession of small amounts of cannabis.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: *20.5.19*

By the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr MLA