




Speech By
Michael Berkman

MEMBER FOR MAIWAR

Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2019

MEDICINES AND POISONS BILL

THERAPEUTIC GOODS BILL

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (12.43 pm): I will start by thanking the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for taking this legislation on. I am sure I am not the only health committee member who appreciates not having this legislation added to our lengthy task of inquiries at the moment.

I will make a brief contribution in the time allowed. I want to start with the prescription monitoring scheme. This is broadly supported. In particular, I note the comments of the AMA, who have said that they are supportive of the scheme, including the requirement for prescribers to obtain an approval before prescription of controlled drugs, or S8 drugs, and particular S4 medicines to drug dependent people. It is a welcome step. The new system appears to simplify and improve efficiency of the process for prescribers to check the relevant database for drug dependence.

There are a few concerns with this scheme that were noted by submitters. I note first of all that privacy concerns will necessarily arise from a monitoring system like this. As recommended by the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, the database should only be accessible during the prescription process and not by third parties such as WorkCover or other insurers. It is also vital that the government provide necessary support and resources to support the rollout of this new system—for example, by incorporating new real-time prescription monitoring—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will interrupt you there, member. Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions.