



# STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria  
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Drug Driving Offences Growing

Member for Western Victoria Stuart Grimley has asked the Government what they are doing to prevent future increases in repeat drug driving offences.

During Question Time today, Mr Grimley has asked Attorney-General Jill Hennessy whether the Andrews Government is “considering broadening the penalties for those who repeatedly and dangerously drive under the influence of drugs?”

In his address to the State Government Minister, Mr Grimley quoted a statistic commissioned by TAC that a staggering 41% of all drug tests come back positive, most commonly with cannabis or stimulants (or in some cases, both).

The instances of repeat drug driving offences is growing, demonstrating that the punishments or sentences being handed down to these offenders are simply not working. On the other hand, the current sentencing regime for repeated drink-driving offenders has scope for a custodial sentence.

Mr Grimley pointed to the fact that there is currently only a “very loose sentencing framework around repeat drug driving offenders... meaning that someone caught driving with drugs in their system for a second, third, fourth time or more, do not face jail regardless of previous offences”.

In his Question, Mr Grimley said “drivers who repeatedly fail oral drug tests can only get a fine, a conviction and a licence cancellation along with other conditions”.

Despite highlighting a flaw in the system, there are other ways that police can charge drug drivers such as a drug impairment charge, however this involves many procedural assessments and bloodwork to be taken.

Mr Grimley was a police officer for almost a decade prior to becoming a Member of Parliament and recalled his frustration as seeing the same offenders repeat crimes they had been penalised for, sometimes just weeks or days prior.

### Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

“It’s a community expectation that if you’re caught putting other drivers on the road at risk, that you’ll be dealt with appropriately by the law. Unfortunately the community don’t really think this is currently happening.

Having been on the other end of enforcing the law rather than making it, it’s obvious to me that there’s a problem with the current sentencing of repeat drug drivers.

In the same breath, rehabilitation services of drug addicts are below par in regional and rural Victoria especially. I think until this is addressed we’re not going to see a drastic change in these horrifying statistics.”

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