

CANNABIS — SUNFLOWER PLANTS — ROADSIDE TEST

**955. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the minister representing the Minister for Police:**

I refer the minister to a recent study, highlighted in the May edition of *Nature* magazine, that has shown that a fast-growing sunflower plant used as a traditional herbal medicine in South Africa produces some of the same compounds found in the cannabis plant.

- (1) Would the roadside tests commonly undertaken by Western Australia police be able to differentiate between the compounds now shown to be present in *Helichrysum umbraculigerum* and those detected when a user has consumed cannabis?
- (2) If no to (1), given the size of the South African community in Western Australia, will the minister now be forced to give sunflowers a category of their own in the schedules that underpin the Misuse of Drugs Act rather than admit to the potential for false positives?

**Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:**

It is not even Thursday! I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Police.

The Western Australia Police Force advises that it is not possible to provide an answer within the required time frame. It is requested that the honourable member place the question on notice.