

CANNABIS — AUTISM TRIALS

1274. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Health:

I refer the minister to the recent trials undertaken at Monash Children's Hospital of a CBD-dominant cannabis treatment for children with autism, the results of which have been reported to be extremely promising.

- (1) How many children here in Western Australia have been diagnosed as suffering from autism, and has that number grown in recent years?
- (2) Will the Department of Health commit to monitoring this and further trials planned in Victoria for children with autism, while keeping an open mind about the potential for cannabis to help them ease their symptoms?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

- (1) Autism spectrum disorder assessments occur in both private and public health settings; therefore, WA Health does not hold data on all children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.
- (2) Consistent with standard approaches towards scientific research and quality use of medicines, the department will continue to monitor, evaluate and apply relevant results of the published medical evidence in relation to regulatory and policy approaches to medicinal cannabis.