

MEDICAL CANNABIS — RESEARCH

41. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the Minister for Medical Research:

I refer the minister to an article published on 27 December 2022 on the website NORML showing that a record number of scientific papers were published about cannabis last year—more than 4 370 in 2022, up from 4 200 in 2021—and that, since 2010, as many as 30 000 peer-reviewed papers specific to cannabis have been produced by scientists worldwide.

- (1) That being the case, is there an office or officer within the Department of Health responsible for monitoring and reporting on the publication of national and international research on this and other medical topics?
- (2) If yes to (1), how often are the minister and his colleague the Minister for Health briefed on the quantity and quality of data available across both emerging and established fields of research and what part, if any, does that then play in the department's own forward planning?
- (3) If no to (1), why not? Given the growing amount of research available to us, will the minister do what he can to rectify that situation?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

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

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Department of Health supports and facilitates the safe, high quality and sustainable use of medicines and health technology for Western Australian patients. Consideration of relevant research and publications is a part of this function.