

DEMENTIA

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

I refer the minister to statistics published by Dementia Australia suggesting that as many as 69 000 Western Australians will suffer from dementia by 2050, almost doubling the approximately 37 000 sufferers currently recorded in just a quarter of a century.

- (1) What active work is being undertaken under the auspices of the Department of Health to tackle, and ideally reduce, the prevalence of dementia in Western Australia?
- (2) Is the minister aware of recent research out of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in California that suggests that cannabinal, or CBN, a relatively unexplored compound naturally found in cannabis, can help to protect brain cells from ageing and could potentially treat dementia?
- (3) If cannabis and its derivatives are not being actively considered as viable treatment options at this time, will the minister take on board this new research and request their inclusion in any suite of potential measures going forward?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. To allow for a fulsome and accurate response, an answer will be provided on 22 February 2023.