

MEDICAL CANNABIS — ATHLETES

1282. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer the minister to calls for cannabis to be re-classified by the World Anti-Doping Agency, on the grounds that it has been found to be a substance that is neither ergogenic, performance enhancing, nor ergolytic, performance worsening, and given that medicinal cannabis is legal here in Australia.

Will the minister advocate for a re-classification, even if only for those with a medicinal prescription, so that athletes with a genuine medical need for cannabis can continue to participate and contribute in their chosen sport; and, if not, why not?

Hon SAMANTHA ROWE replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. I provide the following answer on behalf of the Minister for Sport and Recreation.

No. The Sport Integrity Australia Act 2020, Sport Integrity Australia Regulations 2020 and national anti-doping scheme provide the national legislative framework under which states and territories must act. The *World anti-doping code* contains provisions that allow exemptions for athletes to use prohibited substances where there is a legitimate medical use. This includes medicinal cannabis.