

CANNABIS — PALLIATIVE CARE

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

I refer the minister to recently released data from the United Kingdom which suggests that as many as 30 per cent of patients accessing end-of-life hospice care in the UK are using some form of cannabis-based product to ease them through their palliative care.

- (1) What provision is there for patients to access cannabis products as part of their palliative care here in Western Australia, and what costs are associated with such access?
- (2) Are there any figures to suggest how many end-of-life patients in WA are using cannabis, either through a valid prescription or illicitly due to cost concerns?
- (3) Will the Department of Health take on board these latest UK figures and ensure that, at the very least, similar canvassing of patients occurs here, allowing us to broaden our knowledge in this important area of medicine?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

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

- (1) Patients can access cannabis products in WA as a prescription medicine, including as part of palliative care. Costs are dependent on product, dosage and treatment schedule.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes.