

CANNABIS — EXPERIMENTATION

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

As we approach this year's 420 celebrations, I refer the minister to a press conference held recently by the German federal Minister for Health, Dr Karl Lauterbach, during which he admitted that in order to better understand the need for cannabis reform, he had experimented with the drug, broadening his own understanding in the process.

In the interests of medical research, will the minister, or any of his cabinet colleagues for that matter, commit to similar experiments so that he and they can claim at least some level of experience before refusing yet again to entertain calls for the legalisation of cannabis here in Western Australia; and, if not, why not?

Hon Sue Ellery: You should check the public record because you will find that some of us already have!

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

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

I have to say that the Bob Dylan song lyrics "Everybody must get stoned" were going through my head when I read the member's question! The answer is no. The Western Australian government does not support the decriminalisation of cannabis.

The PRESIDENT: It is the Thursday before Easter, but, members, honestly!