

CANNABIS CONTROL BILL 2003

**1. Mr M.J. BIRNEY to the Minister for Health:**

I refer the minister to the Cannabis Control Bill 2003, which will allow for the decriminalisation of the possession of up to 30 grams of cannabis and the cultivation of up to two cannabis plants.

- (1) Is the minister aware that two fully grown cannabis plants are capable of producing 2.68 kilograms of cannabis a year?
- (2) Is the minister aware that this amount of cannabis has a street value of up to \$67 000?
- (3) Can the minister confirm that under Labor's legislation this production of cannabis would attract only a \$200 fine and no criminal record?

**Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:**

- (1)-(3) I trust that the member for Kalgoorlie does not intend to try to grow cannabis, asking those silly questions. The first thing is that we clearly know how much cannabis is grown on a plant, and if that is converted into - what was the amount the member stated?

Mr M.J. Birney: It was 2.68 kilograms.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: If the member for Kalgoorlie converted that amount of cannabis plant material into 2.68 kilograms of cannabis, he would be locked up as a dealer. He would go straight to jail, he would not pass "go" and he would not be fined \$200. This is just part and parcel of the absolute hypocrisy that has been spoken since this Bill was announced. The previous Government introduced a cautioning program that did not even provide a penalty. It allowed a person to walk away without anything happening at all. The absolute hypocrisy practised by this Opposition is quite unbelievable. This question provides yet another example of it. I sincerely hope that the member for Kalgoorlie does not repeat those experiments, because if he does, he will go straight into the bin.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Warren-Blackwood to order for the first time.