

420 FREMANTLE EVENT

Statement

HON SOPHIA MOERMOND (South West) [5.33 pm]: Yesterday, I spoke about the Nimbin MardiGrass, but we also had an event in WA. We held our inaugural 420 Fremantle event. The City of Fremantle was very gracious to host us, and this was in no small way due to the professionalism of the organising team, for which we are most grateful.

The history behind 420 relates to a group of five California teens who would meet after school at 4.20 pm to smoke a joint. Weirdly enough, it has morphed into the celebration of activism on 20 April every year. I am not quite sure how that happened but, interestingly enough, it did.

We were very much supported by the cannabis and hemp industry in WA. It put on a great display of various products and businesses we have here. We had the following companies represented: the Margaret River Hemp Company, with clothing; Provex, with dog and human supplements; Hemp Squared, which does hemp buildings; Herbee hemp beer, gin and vodka, which are infused with hemp; Vasse Valley Hemp Farm, which does an amazing hemp dukkah; Raj, the hemp bag man from Nepal, who makes wonderful bags; Sunshine Hemp natural hemp-based skincare products; MediCann, which does health care; Mull Cafe; and Releaf dispensaries. The high level of professionalism certainly put to rest the tired stoner type, with well-respected businesses and high-quality products backed by research and development, as well as some solid business acumen.

The police presence was very low, similar to the MardiGrass in Nimbin, with no interventions required, which shows that cannabis is causing far less unwarranted hysteria and is becoming much more accepted. For a first time, our event went very well. We hope to build on this next year when 20 April will fall on a Saturday. I have invited the grandfather of the legalise cannabis movement from the Nimbin HEMP Embassy over, the lovely Michael Balderstone, who has been lovingly described in the local press as having the best suited surname ever as he is indeed bald and often stoned!