

**COMMUNITY PROTECTION OFFENDER REGISTER — YOUNG ADULTS**

*Petition*

**HON MARTIN PRITCHARD (North Metropolitan)** [3.10 pm]: I present a petition containing two signatures, couched in the following terms —

To the President and Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned support changes to the existing mandatory placement on the WA Sex Offenders Register for all offences. We need to ensure that certain young adults are not inappropriately placed on the sex offender register and subjected to disproportionate and unnecessary impacts arising from automatic registration on that sex offender register. The consequences particularly for first time and one-off offenders, can be unduly punitive. Given the advent of social media, the existing system adopted in 2004 is outdated and needs to be changed. Teens guilty of non-contact charges such as sexting or sending and receiving pictures can be placed on the register for 8–15 years with ongoing reporting obligations and travel bans. Thousands of teens in every school in WA could be charged every day and find themselves on the register for extended periods of time, affecting the rest of their lives. It is difficult to obtain signatures due to the nature of the petition. Although thousands of young people and their families are currently adversely and unfairly affected, they wish to remain anonymous to avoid being subjected to the constant spectre of negative exposure and unwarranted discrimination over a person's future employment opportunities and engagement in the community

**We therefore ask the Legislative Council to**

- 1. Amend current legislation so that anyone given a Spent Conviction in WA at the time of sentencing for a sex offence not face mandatory placement on the register ...**
- 2. Introduce similar amendments to the present system of sex offender registration such as those included in the Sex Offenders Registration Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2017 recently adopted in Victoria ...**
- 3. Change current orders so that a registration order in respect of a person found guilty of a Class 1 or 2 offence be five years and ... a Class 3 offence should be of three years ...**

**And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.**

[See paper 1472.]