

The Chairman

A court has just ensured that a young man of 22 will be on the CPOR, with restricted occupations and community activities, until he is 37, the years when a person sets themselves up for life. And this, even though he entered a guilty plea.

Why did this occur? Because, starting as juvenile, but then running over the cusp of 18 years, he had sexual relations with a young women 2 years and ten months younger.

The near peers defence under the Criminal Code didn't apply because that requires the defendant to believe the young woman was over 16.

The DPPs office refers to certain circumstances applicable to this case, but provides no instructive public information.

I believe this is worthy of discussion by your committee, as to what purpose is served by prosecution, as distinct from other more constructive approaches to midteen sex, given that from the last national sexual health survey, thousands of young West Australians would fall into the same category.

I would be willing to discuss it further.

Thank you

Geoff Taylor

Report 50

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS Terms of Reference:
Inquiry into children and young people on the Sex Offenders Register – is mandatory registration appropriate?

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I have refined the figures. The Children's Commissioner today supplied me with the population figures for 14-17 year olds as of last June. Halving that gives 60,640 young men 14-17 or, assuming an even distribution across those four ages, 30, 320 young men 14-15. The 2014 ARC Sexual Health Survey conducted by Latrobe University notes that 22.3% of male Year 10 students and 22.9% of female Year 10 students had had sexual intercourse. Applying the figure for the males to the WA population figures, and assuming their sexual partners were all less than 16, if there are no more court cases in WA this year similar to the one I referred to, then 6760 young men won't be charged and be placed on the CPOR.

Just that one young man.

In the case that the female partner was 16 or more, but the young man not, a number of young women could in theory face charges and be placed on the CPOR.

Also with two high school teachers now facing charges of not reporting a sexual offence, what is to be the situation with a teacher, doctor or allied health professional who learns of a case in the midteen peer to peer category above and fails, or chooses not, to report it?

Food for thought.

Geoff Taylor