

HISTORICAL HOMOSEXUAL CONVICTIONS — APOLOGY AND EXPUNGEMENT

Statement

HON COLIN HOLT (South West) [6.34 pm]: I rise today to acknowledge the statement made in the other house by the Premier of our state. On behalf of my National Party colleagues, I would also like to acknowledge the statement made by the Leader of the House in leading an apology in this house. It is long overdue. How a loving, consensual relationship can ever be thought of as criminal is beyond me. I thank the government for leading that apology. We look forward to the legislation that expunges those records coming to this house and in some way starts to correct the wrongs that should never have been considered that way. If we can play our part in scrutinising and adding to the debate, we look forward to it wholeheartedly. These situations come to Parliament fairly rarely. I have been here for eight or nine years now and the opportunity for the leaders of Parliament to do something in those debates on behalf of our society and our community is a very important responsibility. We look forward to taking that responsibility. I thank and acknowledge the Leader of the House for bringing that apology forward today.