

2-3/17  
Hon Martin Proffchard

I certify that this Petition conforms with the Standing Orders of the Legislative Council

CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

I, Lee Lane of the promoter of this petition which contains 2 signatures in the State of Western Australia, am

**PETITION IN RELATION TO SEX OFFENDERS REGISTER OF WA**

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 Given the advent of social media, the existing system adopted in 2004 is outdated and needs to be changed.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 and if already placed on the register they can apply to become exempt from reporting obligations and placement on the register. The court and judge presiding over the trial and sentencing have deemed them to be of no chance of reoffending and no risk to the sexual safety of anyone in community and the offence was of a minor nature. Spent Convictions are rarely given at the time of sentencing and these people should not be placed 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. These amendments would allow a person who has been found guilty of a registrable offence that is a specified offence who at any time during the commission of a specified offence was 18 or 19 years of age and at all times during the commission of a specified offence was not older than 19 to apply for exemption orders from the sex offenders register.**
- 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 that a registration order in respect of a person found guilty of a Class 3 offence should be of three years duration, but that it should be possible for the Chief Commissioner of Police to apply to a court for an extension of a registration order and that there should be no limit to the number of times that a registration can be extended. That would be the counter effect to the limited time. Once reporting obligations are completed people should have their names removed from the register.**

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

NAME	FULL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE