Extract from Hansard

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 11 June 2013] p1207b-1207b Mr Peter Abetz

ALCOHOL SUPPLY — MINORS

Petition

MR P. ABETZ (Southern River) [2.56 pm]: It gives me much pleasure to present a petition containing 14 signatures. The petition conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly. I have a further petition containing 5 861 signatures that does not conform to the standing orders, which I will make available to the Minister for Racing and Gaming. The conforming petition states —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, say there is currently no law in WA preventing adults from supplying or permitting the supply to minors with alcohol on private premises without the consent of their parents or legal guardian. Adolescents and children as young as twelve are drinking alcohol supplied without their parents' knowledge or consent at private functions in private premises. This may result in their becoming intoxicated, having serious accidents, or being sexually assaulted.

Adolescent drinking is a source of growing concern throughout Australia and the world. Underage drinking contributes to Australia's unhealthy drinking culture. Something must be done to address this. As a community we call for secondary supply laws to ensure adults can be held accountable for supply of alcohol to minors without parental permission.

Secondary supply laws are already in place in New South Wales, Queensland, Northern Territory, Tasmania and Victoria.

Now we ask the Legislative Assembly

Please introduce secondary supply legislation encompassing responsible supply for alcohol in Western Australia. We believe making adults accountable for allowing underage drinking in their homes without parental permission is necessary in order to make a positive contribution to improving Australia's harmful drinking culture.

[See petition 10.]