

LAW REFORM (DECRIMINALIZATION OF SODOMY) ACT, NUMBER OF CHARGES AND
CONVICTIONS

580. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the minister representing the Attorney General:

Perhaps I should give the answer and the minister can guess the question. How many persons have been -

- (a) charged with offences under,
- (b) prosecuted under, and
- (c) convicted under

sections 186, 187 and 189 of the Criminal Code since the enactment of the Law Reform (Decriminalization of Sodomy) Act, No 32 of 1989?

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question, which was given, I think, on 11 September 2001. Available information is insufficient to provide a complete answer to the question.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: So put it on notice.

Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS: No. Information is incomplete about the number of relevant charges lodged in Courts of Petty Sessions. A computer-based information system has been introduced progressively into Courts of Petty Sessions, so the period for which data is available varies among locations. Hence, complete statewide information is not available over the full period. However, a continuous data set is available from the Perth Court of Petty Sessions from 1994 onwards. This data shows no defendants on section 186 or 187 charges, and 165 defendants facing charges laid under section 189. Perth court handles about 50 per cent of all Court of Petty Sessions charges.

The higher courts information system has operated from 1992 and provided the following information.

Section	Number of defendants	Number convicted
186	0	0
187	1	1
189	394	239