

GAY AND LESBIAN LAW REFORM

Petition

Hon Barry House presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 123 persons -

To the Honourable the President and members of the Legislative Council in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia express our concern and opposition to the Labor Government's proposed Gay & Lesbian Legislation which will:

- Devalue the status of the traditional family in Western Australia and expose young people to greater health and other risks.
- Reduce the age of consent for sodomy and other same-sex practices to 16 years (which can in effect be done to 13 years.)
- Allow same-sex couples access to adoption and artificial reproduction technology.
- Allow the promotion of Homosexual behaviour through the removal of clauses in the Sodomy Act which will effectively allow sexual deviancies to be taught in our educational institutions as approved lifestyle choices.
- Amend the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (WA) to:
 - Allow Freedom of Speech in relation to Homosexual vilification; and
 - Give Homosexual couples the same property and marriage entitlements that currently apply to Heterosexual Married couples, thus undermining the marriage contract.

We therefore respectfully request the Legislative Council proceed with only so much of the legislation that removes discrimination against consenting adult homosexual persons and reject the remainder.

And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

(A similar petition was presented by Hon Bill Stretch (97 signatures).

[See papers Nos 1165 and 1166.]