

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Fiftieth Report — “Terms of Reference: Inquiry into Children and Young People on the Sex Offenders Register — is Mandatory Registration Appropriate?” — Tabling

HON MATTHEW SWINBOURN (East Metropolitan) [10.09 am]: I am directed to present the fiftieth report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs titled “Terms of Reference: Inquiry into Children and Young People on the Sex Offenders Register — is Mandatory Registration Appropriate?”.

[See paper 2621.]

Hon MATTHEW SWINBOURN: The report that I have just tabled advises the house of the resolution of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs to commence an inquiry into mandatory registration of children and young people on the sex offenders register and to advise the house of the terms of reference, pursuant to standing order 179(2). The committee resolved at its meeting on 10 April 2019 to commence an inquiry into issues raised in petition 70 regarding the application of Western Australia’s sex offender registration scheme to children and young people. This inquiry will examine the criteria for registration of children and young people on the sex offenders register and how those criteria relate to the purpose and operation of the Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004. Particular attention will be paid to the nature of reportable offences committed by children and young people that may warrant a discretionary approach to registration as a sex offender. Consensual sexual activity between young people of similar age is one example. The committee will examine these issues in the context of the purpose of the legislation to protect the community and assist the police in their investigations, the practical implications of mandatory registration for children and young people, and the approach employed by other jurisdictions. The committee will seek evidence from the public and from relevant stakeholders during the inquiry. I commend the report to the house.