

AGE OF CONSENT, MALE PROSTITUTES

Petition

Hon Barry House presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 14 persons -

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

We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia respectfully submit that;

It is our concern that, if the age of consent for male to male sex acts is lowered to 16 years (as proposed by the Committee on Homosexual Law Reform initiated by the Attorney General) sex industry operators will be able to legally promote and develop a market for teenage males (age 18 or 19) to act as prostitutes to male clients. Under present legislation male prostitutes must be over 21.

Lowering the age of consent for homosexual acts would be likely to result therefore, in an increased number of teenage males being prostituted to homosexual men by the WA sex industry. We believe this is inconsistent with the healthy, emotional and spiritual development of WA youth and is not a development the WA community would approve of.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Legislative Council will;

- Keep the age at which young males can be legally employed by the WA sex industry to work as prostitutes to other males at 21 years in order to prohibit the sexual exploitation of teenage males by commercial sex industry operators.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See paper No 480.]