

DRUG REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

Petition

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale) [4.37 pm]: I have a petition that is in accordance with the regulations for the submission of petitions. It is from 88 petitioners and it 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

Persons charged and convicted of a criminal offence, —

I cannot actually hear myself speaking. I have been waiting all day for this!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, could you please stop the background conversations; thank you.

Dr A.D. BUTI: It states —

Persons charged and convicted of a criminal offence, who are or were affected by drugs at the time of offence, are currently sentenced for their crime in the same manner as those who have committed crimes while not under the influence of drugs.

When sentenced to imprisonment those people do not enter into drug rehabilitation programs whilst incarcerated. Further, it is commonly known that there is access to drugs within prisons. Therefore, on their release, they inevitably continue to access drugs, increasing the likelihood of re-offending

We now ask the Legislative Assembly

To legislate to have Magistrates consider imposing a sentence which requires the offender to participate in a recognised drug rehabilitation program such as those programs which are mandatory in Singapore. Such programs have a positive outcome, with those participating less likely to reoffend.

[See petition 72.]