

LEGAL AID OFFICES — FREMANTLE

Petition

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle) [9.03 am]: I have a petition with 487 signatures, which reads as follows —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, say the decision to close the Legal Aid offices in Fremantle and Midland should be reversed. The services offered by these offices will be moved to Perth, which will force clients to travel to the central office in Perth. We are concerned that closing these local offices will mean access to justice—particularly legal advice and minor assistance—becomes inaccessible to the most vulnerable in our community. Legal Aid WA should be resourced properly so that it can provide good quality, low cost services to local communities.

Now we ask the Legislative Assembly to call on the State Government to reverse the decision to close the Legal Aid offices in Fremantle and Midland to ensure clients in these communities can continue to access local legal support.

[See petition 231.]