

**SENTENCE ADMINISTRATION ACT 2003 — AMENDMENTS**

*Petition*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah)** [9.02 am]: I would like to table a petition signed by four members of the Western Australian community. Accompanying this petition is a petition which does not comply with the standing orders of the Parliament of Western Australia but which is signed by 20 000 people from Western Australia, member for Nedlands. The petition is worded as follows —

...

We, the undersigned, say

We draw attention to the Parliament of Western Australia that under the current laws, persons convicted of murder may receive parole even though they refuse to disclose the whereabouts of their victim's body. This prevents the family of the victim from gaining any closure. There is a need to amend the Sentencing Amendment Act to provide that persons convicted of murder who refuse to reveal the whereabouts of their victims' bodies be ineligible for parole and be jailed indefinitely. By making parole contingent upon the location of the body at the time of sentencing, it is hoped that this may give some closure to the victim's family and provide incentive for prisoners to co-operate with police and other authorities.

Now we ask the Legislative Assembly to

amend the Sentencing Amendment Act to provide that an application for parole may not proceed where a prisoner has been sentenced for murder and no remains of the victim have been found and for that prisoner to be jailed indefinitely. Under this amendment murderers who refuse to assist police with information regarding the whereabouts of the remains of their victim will be denied parole and held indefinitely.

There are four signatories to the conforming petition and over 20 000 signatories to the nonconforming petition. Included in the conforming petition are the signatures of Mr Ray and Mrs Margaret Dodd, who are in the Speaker's gallery this morning. I ask that the petition be received and that the nonconforming petition with 20 000 signatures lay on the table of the house for the rest of today's sitting.

[The paper was tabled for the information of members.]

[See petition 341.]