

**LEGISLATION ON THE INTERNET**

*Statement by Member for Warren-Blackwood*

**MR P.D. OMODEI** (Warren-Blackwood) [12.52 pm]: I present the following 90-second statement on behalf of the member for Nedlands. It follows the petition containing 1 234 signatures that was presented in this House last Tuesday on behalf of the Western Australian division of the Australian Law Librarians' Group. The group believes that WA legislation should be available in its full text on the Internet, and that it should be current and downloadable. This concept is totally supported by the Law Society of Western Australia. The legislation of all Australian States, except Western Australia, is freely available in current and downloadable formats. Currently, the State Law Publisher charges for the download of the full text of legislation, which is a hindrance for the following reasons: there is a limit to the number of downloads that people can make per subscription; all other States have their legislation freely available in current and downloadable formats; access to national legislation services - for example, Lawlex, which provide links to WA regulations - does not function because of the subscription requirement; Western Australians should not have to pay the subscription charge to access their legislation in full; and access to WA legislation on the current site is impractical because, if one wishes to print a whole Act or regulation, it must be done section by section.

The Law Society of WA has endorsed the petition by writing to the Premier, and this underlines the importance of the issue to the legal community in Perth.