

PROSTITUTION

Petition

MR P.D. OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood - Leader of the Opposition) [2.51 pm]: I have a petition from 1 951 petitioners opposed to the legalisation of prostitution in Western Australia in the following terms -

To the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled:

Because the legalisation of prostitution in other Australian States has led to

- an increase in the number of brothels, both legal and illegal
- an increase in the number of young women becoming prostitutes
- an increase in the number of men using prostitutes

and because prostitution compounds social injustice through

- the degradation of women who enter prostitution
- the demeaning of women whose husbands and boyfriends use prostitutes
- the fracture and consequent welfare dependency of families broken by the infidelities of men with prostitutes

we respectfully urge the Parliament not to legalise any aspect of the trade of prostitution in Western Australia.

Instead, we urge the Parliament to enact laws to

- enforce a complete ban on advertising of prostitution, especially in the “Personal” columns of *The West Australian* newspaper
- ensure adequate police powers and realistic penalties to make running brothels and escort agencies unviable
- support rehabilitation programs for prostitutes, such as Linda’s House of Hope.

This petition conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

[See petition 249.]

Petition, Non-Conforming

MR P.D. OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood - Leader of the Opposition) [2.52 pm]: I have a copy of a petition with 5 000 signatures that states that prostitution is a dangerous and harmful activity that provides no social benefits to Western Australian communities and families.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I understand that this petition does not conform to the standing orders, so the Leader of the Opposition is unable to read it in; he just needs to ask the question.

Mr P.D. OMODEI: This is a copy of a petition with 5 000 signatures. I have forwarded the petition to the Attorney General and I request that it be allowed to be laid on the table of the house for the rest of today’s sitting so that members can peruse the document.

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