

PROSTITUTION

Petition

MR P.D. OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood - Leader of the Opposition) [12.30 pm]: I present the following petition -

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

We, the undersigned, say that prostitution is a dangerous and harmful activity which provides no social benefits to Western Australian communities and families. Prostitution degrades young women; it causes lasting psychological, spiritual and physical harm; it leads to drug addiction as a coping mechanism and returning to normal family life after prostitution is almost impossible.

For the above reasons we respectfully ask the Legislative Assembly to vote against any Bill implementing the recommendations of the Prostitution Law Reform Working Group as set out in their report of January 2007.

In particular, we respectfully ask the Legislative Assembly to:

- vote against any decriminalisation of sexual services businesses operating in Western Australia;
- continue empowering local governments to prohibit the operation of sexual services businesses;
- ban all advertising and open soliciting for prostitution;
- create appropriate laws about the gathering of evidence and the ability to search premises that will empower police to prosecute successfully;
- provide financial assistance to organisations offering escape and rehabilitation to prostitutes; -
- increase resources to stop the trafficking of women from overseas into Western Australia.

And your petitioners as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition contains 10 signatures, and conforms to standing orders.

[See petition 257.]