

**MALE TO MALE SEX ACTS, AGE OF CONSENT**

*Petition*

Mr Johnson presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 580 persons -

To the Honourable Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled:

We, the undersigned, totally oppose the lowering of the age of consent to 16 years of age for male to male sex acts. We are gravely concerned that young males would become prey for homosexuals, paedophiles and commercial sex industry operators. If a child looks 16, but is aged between 13 and 15, loopholes in the law, namely the Criminal codes, could then allow a perpetrator or paedophile a way of avoiding conviction.

We respectfully believe that it is the responsibility of the community to protect young people whilst they are still maturing, from undesirable 'minority' pressures. We uphold that the legal age of consent should remain 21 years of age.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter your earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition No 64.]