



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010

### **MINIMUM SENTENCING FOR CHILD SEX OFFENDERS**

Independent MLC, Ann Bressington, has today called on the Government and Opposition to support her *Criminal Law (Sentencing)(Mandatory Imprisonment of Child Sex Offenders) Amendment Bill 2010*, which was introduced on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

The Bill seeks to impose mandatory minimum prison sentences of one-third of the maximum penalty on paedophiles aged over 18 who sexually abuse a child aged 13 years or younger. The sentence cannot be suspended.

*“The sexual abuse of a child is the most heinous offence and deserves a punishment that reflects the severity of the crime and the harm that it causes,”* Ann Bressington said.

*“However, far too often paedophiles walk free from court on a suspended sentence or receive a non-parole period of only two or three years. When this happens victims and their parents rightly feel they have been denied justice.*

*“Minimum mandatory sentencing will ensure paedophiles are taken out of circulation and put in prison where they belong.”*

As an example of an offender released on a good behaviour bond and the anguish this causes the victims parents, please see the Advertiser article, *Public Warned about Abuser*: <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/public-warned-about-abuser/story-e6freo8c-1111113044891>.

Below are some of the offences and the minimum non-parole periods that would apply:

<b><u>Section of the Criminal Law Consolidation Act</u></b>	<b><u>Offence</u></b>	<b><u>Minimum Penalty</u></b>
48	Rape	10 years
48A	Compelled sexual manipulation	5 years
49	Unlawful sexual intercourse	3 years and 4 months
50	Persistent sexual exploitation of a child	10 years
56	Indecent assault	10 years
59	Abduction of a male or female person	6 years
60	Procuring sexual intercourse	3 years and 4 months
63	Production or dissemination of child pornography	4 years
63B	Procuring a child to commit an indecent act	4 years
66(1)	Compelling a child to provide commercial sexual services	10 years
72	Incest	3 years and 4 months

***For further information, please contact Ann Bressington directly on 0448 887 277***