

# John Castrilli MLA



## Representing the people of Bunbury

Has our endless pursuit of human rights gotten in the way of justice and the rights of victims?

That is the question I have been asking myself each day lately as I read the daily newspaper to see another murderer or paedophile who has had their sentence lightened due to a loophole in the law.

In a few of those cases, police questioning has been deemed too tough and allowed serious charges to be dropped.

It has become apparent that those charged with enforcing our often unfathomable laws face so much paperwork and so many hurdles that we would be crazy to put more in their way.

Unfortunately, our Attorney General Jim McGinty doesn't see it that way and has been progressing his treasured WA Human Rights Act without delay.

It is sad this Minister, who also heads our hospital system, does not see as bigger need to rush through upgrades of our hospitals despite the pain of thousands who wait on long lists for vital operations and staffing levels reach dangerous lows.

And while few would argue that human rights are a bad thing, what I fear is that we have gone too far in our human rights focus and justice has been the wager.

This Act could be yet another tool for defence lawyers as they pursue the best deal for the criminals they represent.

These pursuits could substitute the pursuit of justice for the grandmother who has been bashed in her own home and left to live in fear.

It could allow more paedophiles to walk free, murderers to serve only a few years and force more police to exit the system in frustration.

All this while our health system sinks into a further state of disrepair.

Let's bring our justice system back to basics and give compassion where compassion is due – to the victims.

Note: John Castrilli has submitted his concerns to the Human Rights Act during the public submissions phase.

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