WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

INDECENT PUBLICATIONS AND ARTICLES.

No. 14 of 1902.

[As amended by Acts:

No. 6 of 1967, assented to 5th October, 1967;

No. 98 of 19721, assented to 6th December, 1972;

No. 99 of 1973, assented to 28th December, 1973;

No. 39 of 19742, assented to 15th November, 1974,

and reprinted pursuant to the Amendments Incorporation Act, 1938.]

AN ACT to suppress Indecent and Obscene Publications and Articles.

Long title. Amended by No. 39 of 1974, s. 3.

[Assented to 11th December, 1902.]

BE it enacted—

. 1. This Act may be cited as the Indecent Short title. Publications and Articles Act, 1902-1974.

Amended by

1A. (1) In this Act unless the contrary intention Interpretation. appears-

Added by No. 39 of 1974, s. 4.

"article" includes—

(a) any cinematographic or other type of film, or videotape; and

¹ Came into operation 12th March, 1973; see G.G. 12/3/73, p. 699.

² Came into operation 1st March, 1975; see G.G. 31/1/75, p. 265.

- (b) any gramophone record, wire, recording tape or other device or thing by or on which words or sounds are recorded and from which they are capable of being reproduced.
- (2) For the purposes of this Act a record shall be deemed to be indecent or obscene if the words or sounds capable of being reproduced therefrom are indecent or obscene, and publication, in the case of a record, shall include the delivering of the record to any person or the playing of the record in the hearing of any person.

Printing and publishing indecent article, book, etc.
Amended by No. 6 of 1967, s. 2; No. 39 of 1974, s. 5.

N.S.W. Act, No. 12 of 1901, sec. 16, s.5 (a).

Delivering indecent advertise-ments for publication in news-paper.

Ibid., s.s.(c).

Affixing, etc., indecent or obscene pictures or writings, etc. Ibid., s.s. (d). Imp. Act 52 & 53 Vict., c. 18, sec. 3.

2. (1) Any person who--

- (1) prints, makes, sells, has in his possession, custody or control for sale or gain or apparently for sale or gain, publishes, distributes, or exhibits any indecent or obscene article, book, paper, newspaper, writing, picture, photograph, lithograph, drawing, or representation; or
- (2) gives or delivers to any other person any picture or printed or written matter which is of an indecent or obscene nature, with the intent that the same or a copy thereof, or any part of such matter or a copy thereof, should be published as an advertisement in any newspaper; or
- (3) (a) affixes to or inscribes on any house, building, wall, hoarding, gate, fence, pillar, post, board, tree, or any other thing whatsoever, so as to be visible to any person passing along or being in any street, public highway, footpath, or any other place whatsoever to which the public have access;
 - (b) delivers or attempts to deliver or exhibits to any person;
 - (c) leaves in or upon any place to which the public have access, or in or upon any house, shop, yard, garden, or other premises;

(d) exhibits to public view in the window of any house or shop, or otherwise publishes

any indecent or obscene article, picture or printed or written matter; or

(4) gives or delivers to any other person any sending others to do such article, picture or printed or written acts punishable under matter, with the intent that the same, or this section. Ibid., s.s. (e). some one or more thereof, or a copy of any Imp. Act 52 & 53 such article, picture or printed or written vict., No. 18, matter should be affixed, inscribed delivered, exhibited, or otherwise published in contravention of the provisions of this section; or

(5) posts, or causes to be posted for trans- posting indecent mission by post, any indecent or obscene article, pictures and article, picture or printed or written matter; printed matter; printed matter. or

N.S.W. Act No. 12 of 1901, sec. 16, 8.8. (f).

(6) prints any picture or printed matter pub- printing indecent lished or posted in contravention of this pictures or printed matter. Act; or

Ibid., s.s. (g).

(7) publishes a newspaper containing any Publishing indecent or obscene advertisement indecent or obscene advertisement

ments or reports in newspaper. Ibid., s.s. (b). Penalty. Ibid., sec. 16.

commits an offence against this section.

- (2) Any person convicted of an offence against this section shall be liable—
 - (a) if the person convicted is a body corporate. to a penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars for a first offence, and to a penalty not exceeding one thousand dollars for a second or subsequent offence;
 - (b) in any other case, to a penalty not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months for a first offence, and to a penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for a term not

exceeding six months for a second or subsequent offence.

- (3) Where a corporation is convicted of an offence against this section, every person who at the time of the commission of the offence was a director or member of the governing authority of the corporation or an officer concerned in the management of the corporation and who authorised or permitted the commission of the offence is guilty of the like offence.
- (4) Where a person has been convicted of an offence against this section, or where, in respect of any person an offence against this section has been found proved, the court shall, unless it is satisfied that in all the circumstances it would be unreasonable so to do, order that there shall be forfeited to Her Majesty and destroyed by the Commissioner of Police any indecent or obscene article, book, paper, newspaper, writing, picture, photograph, lithograph, drawing, representation, or printed matter in respect of which the offence was committed or proved.

Imposition of penaltics.

3. Informations for offences against this Act may be heard and determined summarily by any Stipendiary Magistrate in Petty Sessions.

Certain advertise-ments, etc., declared indecent.

Ibid., sec. 3. see Imperial Act, 52 & 53 Vict., c. 18, sec. 5.

Savings.

4. Any advertisement, picture, or printed or written matter relating to any complaint or infirmity arising from or relating to sexual intercourse, or to nervous debility or female irregularities, or which might reasonably be construed as relating to any illegal medical treatment or illegal operation, shall be deemed to be indecent within the meaning of the Act.

Nothing in this Act relates to any work of recognised literary, artistic or scientific merit, or to the delivery or exhibiting in the window of any shop, or the posting or causing to be posted for transmission by post for any lawful purpose, of any bona fide medical work or treatise; but in any prosecution for an offence against this Act, the burden of proof that a publication is a bona fide medical work or treatise, or a work of recognised literary, artistic or scientific merit, shall lie on the defendant.

In sections 7 to 14, both inclusive, of this Act—

periodical, paper, newspaper, pamphlet or printed or written matter of any kind and any picture, photograph, lithograph design or representation. "publication" includes any book, magazine, ing or representation;

"restricted publication" means—

- (a) any publication which is, by determination under section 10 of this Act, classified as a restricted publication; and
- (b) any publication within a class of publication which is, by determination under section 10 of this Act, classified as a restricted class of publication;
- "the Committee" means the State Advisory Committee on Publications constituted under this Act.
- 7. (1) For the purposes of this Act there shall be constituted a State Advisory Committee on Publications, which shall have the functions, powers and duties conferred or imposed on it by this Act.

State Advisory Committee on Publications. Added by No. 98 of 1972, s. 4. Amended by 1974, s. 6.

- (2) The Committee shall consist of not less than three nor more than seven persons appointed by the Governor, and of the persons so appointed—
 - (a) at least one shall be a woman;
 - (b) at least one shall be a recognised expert in literature, art or science; and
 - (c) one shall be a practitioner as defined by section 3 of the Legal Practitioners Act, 1893.
- (3) The Governor may appoint a member of the Committee to be the chairman thereof.

- (4) Subject to this section, each member of the Committee shall hold office for a term of five years.
- (5) The office of any member of the Committee becomes vacant if he—
 - (a) resigns the office by writing addressed to the Minister;
 - (b) attains the age of sixty-five years; or
 - (c) is removed from the office by the Governor for disability, insolvency, neglect of duty or misconduct.
- (6) Where a vacancy occurs in the office of a member, the Governor may appoint a person to the vacant office for the residue of the term for which the predecessor was appointed, but where the member whose office became vacant held the qualifications specified in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of subsection (2) of this section, the person so appointed shall have the qualifications specified in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) as the case requires.
- (7) Members of the Committee shall be paid such remuneration and allowances as are from time to time determined by the Governor.
- (8) The Minister shall appoint a member of the Committee or some other person to be the secretary of the Committee for the purposes of this Act.

Meetings of Committee, etc. Added by No. 98 of 1972, s. 5.

- 8. (1) The Minister, the chairman or any three members of the Committee may call a meeting of the Committee.
 - (2) At any meeting of the Committee—
 - (a) the chairman shall preside but if the chairman is not present, the members present shall select one of their number to preside;

- (b) a majority of the members for the time being appointed to the Committee constitutes a quorum;
- (c) questions arising at the meeting shall be decided, in open voting, by a majority of the members present; and
- (d) a record shall be kept of the proceedings thereat.
- (3) The powers of the Committee are not affected by any vacancy in the membership thereof and, if a quorum is present, all acts and proceedings of the Committee are valid and effectual notwithstanding the vacancy.
- 9. (1) The Minister may refer any publication Powers and functions of or class of publication to the Committee for consideration of the publication or class of publication No. 98 of with the object of reporting to the Minister whether 1972, S. 6. with the object of reporting to the Minister whether or not in the opinion of the Committee the publication or class of publication—

- (a) by reason of the nature or extent of references therein to sex, drug addiction, crime, violence, gross cruelty or horror or for any other reason, is undesirable reading for persons under the age of eighteen years and should be classified as a restricted publication or class of publication;
- (b) should be the subject of proceedings under section 2 of this Act.
- (2) The Minister may refer to the Committee any other matter arising out of the administration of this Act for its report thereon.
- (3) The Committee shall include in its report to the Minister the reasons for and matters taken into consideration in formulating its decision and each member of the Committee may make an individual report on the publication or class of publication or matter referred to the Committee.

Restricted publications. Added by No. 98 of 1972, s. 7. Amended by No. 39 of 1974, s. 7.

10. (1) (a) Where—

- (i) the Committee has made a report to the Minister for the purposes of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 9 of this Act in respect of a publication or class of publication referred to it; or
- (ii) the National Literature Board of Review constituted under the Customs (National Literature Board of Review) Regulations of the Commonwealth, or a division of that Board, has, in relation to a publication or class of publication submitted or referred to it, made a report that indicates that the distribution of the publication or class of publication should be restricted, or that the publication or class of publication is considered by the Board to be not unsuitable for distribution in Australia restricted to persons who are eighteen or more years of age,

the Minister, upon consideration of that report, may determine that the publication or class of publication shall be classified as a restricted publication or class of publication.

- (b) The classification of a publication or class of publication as a restricted publication or class of publication shall, if the Minister so determines, extend not only to the publication or class of publication specified in the determination but to all subsequent editions, series, numbers or issues of that publication or class of publication, notwithstanding any reconstruction (whether by way of alteration in title, change of subject, characters, story or other features or otherwise) of such publication or class, and any such subsequent editions, series, numbers or issues shall for the purposes of this Act be a restricted publication or class of publication.
- (2) A determination made by the Minister pursuant to subsection (1) of this section may be varied or revoked by the Minister.
- (3) Notification of any determination or any variation or revocation of any determination shall

be published in the *Gazette* and the determination or any variation or revocation thereof shall not take effect until so notified.

- (4) Any person aggrieved by a determination made by the Minister under this section (not being a determination made upon the consideration of a report made by the National Literature Board of Review referred to in subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section) that a publication or class of publication shall be classified as a restricted publication or class of publication may appeal to the Court against the making of that determination.
- (5) If, at the hearing of an appeal made under subsection (4) of this section, the person aggrieved satisfies the Court that the publication or class of publication to which the appeal relates is not undesirable reading for persons under the age of eighteen years, the Court may order that the publication or class of publication shall cease to be a restricted publication or class of publication.
- (6) Upon the making of an order by the Court under subsection (5) of this section, the publication or class of publication specified in the order ceases to be a restricted publication or class of publication for the purposes of this Act.
- (7) The procedure of the Court in relation to an appeal made under this section shall be as prescribed by the Rules of Court, or in the absence of those Rules, as the Court determines, and at the hearing of any appeal the Court may make such order as to costs as it thinks fit.
 - (8) In this section—

"person aggrieved" means-

(a) an author or publisher of the publication or class of publication to which the appeal relates; or

(b) any person selling the publication or class of publication in the ordinary course of the carrying on of his business;

"the Court" means The District Court of Western Australia.

(9) Where the Minister has made a determination pursuant to subsection (1) of this section that a publication or class of publication and all subsequent editions, series, numbers or issues of that publication or class of publication, notwithstanding any reconstruction (whether by way of alteration in title, change of subject, characters, story or other features or otherwise) of such publication or class of publication, shall be classified as a restricted publication or class of publication, proceedings may be instituted under section 2 of this Act in respect of any subsequent edition, series, number or issue of that publication or class of publication notwithstanding that the determination so made by the Minister is still in force and applies to that subsequent edition, series, number or issue.

Offences in relation to restricted publications. Added by No. 98 of 1972, 8. 8. Amended by No. 99 of 1973, 8. 2.

- 11. (1) Any person who in any street or public place, not being a shop,—
 - (a) sells any restricted publication;
 - (b) has any restricted publication in his possession apparently for the purpose of selling it in a street or public place, not being a shop; or
 - (c) publishes, distributes or exhibits any restricted publication,

commits an offence against this section.

(2) Any person who in any place, not being a shop, exhibits any restricted publication in view of persons who are in any public place commits an offence against this section.

- (3) Any person who—
 - (a) in a shop sells, gives or distributes a restricted publication to a person under the age of eighteen years; or
 - (b) in any place, not being a shop, sells a restricted publication to a person under the age of eighteen years,

commits an offence against this section.

- (4) It is a defence to a complaint of an offence against subsection (3) of this section to show that the defendant believed, on reasonable grounds, that the person to whom he sold a restricted publication was not under the age of eighteen years.
- (5) Any person who in any shop exhibits a restricted publication in such a manner as to place it on view from inside or outside the shop commits an offence against this section.
- (5a) Any person who in any street or public place, including a shop, advertises, publishes, distributes or exhibits any advertising material in such a manner as to inform any person—
 - (a) that a publication is a restricted publication; or
 - (b) that an identifiable place or person may be resorted to for the purpose of perusing or obtaining a publication referred to in that advertisement or advertising material in such a manner as to convey that it is a restricted publication,

commits an offence against this section, unless the advertising, publication, distribution or exhibition is done in good faith solely for the purpose of so informing only persons, or the servants or agents of persons, whose business is or includes the sale or distribution of publications.

- (6) Any person convicted of an offence against this section shall be liable—
 - (a) if the person convicted is a body corporate, to a penalty not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars for a first offence and to a penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars for a second or subsequent offence;
 - (b) in any other case, to a penalty not exceeding one hundred and twenty-five dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months for a first offence, and to a penalty not exceeding two hundred and fifty dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months for a second or subsequent offence.
- (7) Where a person has been convicted of an offence against this section or where in respect of any person an offence against this section has been found proved, there shall be forfeited to Her Majesty—
 - (a) in the case of an offence referred to in subsection (1), (2) or (3) of this section, all restricted publications found, at the time of the commission of the offence, in the possession or apparently under the control of that person;
 - (b) in the case of an offence referred to in subsection (5) of this section, all the restricted publications in respect of which the offence was committed; or
 - (c) in the case of an offence referred to in subsection (5a) of this section, all advertising material of the nature referred to in that subsection found, at the time of the commission of the offence, in the possession or apparently under the control of that person.

Registration of certain persons. Added by No. 39 of 1974, s. 8. 11A. (1) Any person who is carrying on or intends to carry on the business of distributing or selling publications, by wholesale or retail, may

apply to the secretary of the Committee to be registered under this section.

- (2) An application under this section shall contain full particulars of—
 - (a) the name of the applicant;
 - (b) each place at which he carries on or intends to carry on that business; and
 - (c) the address to which the applicant desires notices under this section to be sent and such other particulars as the secretary may require,

and be accompanied by a fee of twenty-five dollars.

- (3) Upon receipt of any application made in accordance with subsection (2) of this section, the secretary of the Committee shall—
 - (a) enter the name and other particulars of the applicant in the register to be kept by him for the purposes of this section; and
 - (b) issue to the applicant a certificate of his registration.
- (4) The registration of a person under this section shall be valid for a period of twelve months and may from time to time thereafter be renewed for periods of twelve months upon application made by the person accompanied by a fee of twenty-five dollars.
- (5) Where a person registered under this section—
 - (a) commences to carry on the business of distributing or selling publications by wholesale or retail at any place not specified in his application for registration or renewal thereof; or
 - (b) ceases to carry on that business at a place previously specified in such an application,

he shall, within seven days, give notice thereof in writing to the secretary of the Committee.

- (6) The secretary of the Committee shall cause to be sent to every person registered under this section—
 - (a) notice of every publication or class of publication which the Minister has determined shall be classified as a restricted publication and notice of any variation or revocation of such a determination; and
 - (b) notice that the Minister has consented to the institution of proceedings under section 2 of this Act in relation to any publication as soon as practicable after the Minister so gives his consent.
- (7) A person shall not have in his possession for sale any restricted publication unless he has been registered under subsection (1) of this section.
- (8) Any person who contravenes subsection (5) or subsection (7) of this section commits an offence.

Penalty: One hundred dollars.

Certain publications not to be liable to prosecution. Added by No. 98 of 1972. s. 9.

- 12. (1) The Minister, upon the recommendation of the Committee, may determine that any publication proposed to be published, sold or distributed shall not be the subject of proceedings under section 2 of this Act.
- (2) A determination made by the Minister pursuant to subsection (1) of this section may be revoked by the Minister.
- (3) Notification of any determination or the revocation of any determination shall be published in the *Gazette* and the determination or any revocation thereof shall not take effect until so notified.
- (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no proceedings shall be instituted under section 2 of this Act in respect of any publication in respect of which a determination under this section is in force or any edition of any publication which edition was published at a time when a determination under this section in respect of the publication was in force.

12A. (1) Where the business of selling or premises for distributing publications is carried on in any etc., of premises a member of the Police Force may, without indecent or obscene further authority than this subsection, enter those publications. premises at any reasonable time and search for and Added by No. 39 of seize any publications which appear to him to be 1974, s. 9. indecent or obscene.

- (2) Where a justice is satisfied by complaint on oath sworn by a member of the Police Force, that there is reasonable ground for suspecting that-
 - (a) indecent or obscene publications are kept for the purpose of gain, or apparently for that purpose, in or on any premises specified in the complaint; or
 - (b) one or more indecent or obscene publications have been sold, distributed, exhibited, lent or otherwise published in, from or at any premises specified in the complaint,

the justice may by warrant under his hand in the form in the Schedule to this Act, or in any like form. authorise any member of the Police Force to enter those premises with such assistance, and using such force, as may be necessary and to search for and seize any publications which appear to the member of the Police Force to be indecent or obscene found in or on those premises.

- (3) Where any publications are seized by a member of the Police Force pursuant to subsection (1) of this section or to a warrant issued under subsection (2) of this section—
 - (a) the member of the Police Force shall as soon as practicable thereafter cause to be delivered to the secretary of the Committee at least one copy of each publication or each edition thereof so seized;
 - (b) such other copies of publications so seized as are not required by paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of this section to be delivered to the secretary of the Committee shall be retained by the Commissioner of Police until the return or the forfeiture and

- destruction of the publications seized has been determined under this Act; and
- (c) the Committee shall, a soon as practicable, consider the publications and report thereon as if the publications had been referred to it by the Minister under section 9 of this Act.

(4) Where-

- (a) a publication has been referred to the Committee pursuant to subsection (3) of this section; and
- (b) the Committee has reported that the publication should be neither classified as a restricted publication nor the subject of proceedings under section 2 of this Act,

the Commissioner of Police shall cause all copies of the publication seized under this section to be returned to the person from whom they were seized.

(5) Where—

- (a) a publication has been referred to the Committee pursuant to subsection (3) of this section; and
- (b) the Committee has reported that the publication should be classified as a restricted publication,

the secretary of the Committee shall cause notice of the Committee's report to be served as soon as practicable on the person from whom the publication was seized and the Commissioner of Police shall cause all copies of the publication seized under this section to be returned to the person from whom they were seized as soon as practicable after—

- (c) the publication in the Government Gazette of a determination by the Minister so classifying the publication; or
- (d) the expiration of twenty-eight days after the Committee so reports,

whichever first happens.

(6) Where-

- (a) a publication has been referred to the Committee pursuant to subsection (3) of this section; and
- (b) the Committee has reported that the publication should be the subject of proceedings under section 2 of this Act,

the secretary of the Committee shall cause notice of the Committee's report to be served as soon as practicable on the person from whom the publication was seized, and if proceedings under section 2 of this Act in respect of that publication have not been commenced within two months after the Committee has so reported, the person from whom the publication was seized may, at any time within the next succeeding period of two months, by complaint summon the member of the Police Force by whom the publication was seized to appear before a court of petty sessions to show cause why all copies of the publication so seized from him should not be returned.

- (7) Where at the expiration of the period of two months within which a person from whom copies of a publication have been seized under this section was entitled to commence proceedings pursuant to subsection (6) of this section for the return of those copies to him—
 - (a) the person has failed to institute proceedings; and
 - (b) proceedings under section 2 of this Act have not been commenced against that person in relation to those copies,

the copies so seized under this section are by force of this section forfeited to Her Majesty and shall be destroyed by the Commissioner of Police.

- (8) Any proceedings instituted under subsection (6) of this section shall be conducted by a stipendiary magistrate sitting alone.
- (9) In any proceedings instituted under subsection (6) of this section—

- (a) the court shall, if it is of opinion that a publication the subject of the proceedings is not indecent or obscene, order the Commissioner of Police to return all copies of that publication seized under this section to the person or persons from whom they were seized; and
- (b) the court shall, if it is of opinion that a publication the subject of the proceedings is indecent or obscene, order that all copies of that publication seized under this section shall be forfeited to and destroyed by the Commissioner of Police.
- (10) Nothing in this section shall operate so as to affect the right of a person to institute proceedings under section 2 of this Act in relation to any publications seized under the authority of this section or so as to affect the liability of any person for an offence under that section.

Approval of Minister certain proceedings. Added by No. 98 of 1972, s. 10.

- 13. (1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, required to institution of proceedings under the provisions of this Act in respect of any publication shall not be instituted without the consent of the Minister.
 - (2) Subsection (1) of this section does not apply to or in respect of proceedings under section 11 of this Act.

Limitation on proceed-ings in certain cases. Added by No. 98 of 1972, s. 11.

Amended by No. 39 of 1974, s. 10.

- 14. No proceedings shall lie or be brought, made or allowed by or in favour of any person against—
 - (a) the Committee or any member of the Committee or any other person acting under the direction of the Committee in respect of any act done or omitted to be done in good faith, in the execution of or purportedly in the execution of any power or authority conferred on the Committee by this Act;
 - (b) any person by reason only of his having, whether as a member of an advisory body

or otherwise, expressed an opinion or tendered advice with respect to any work submitted to him or to any advisory body of which he is a member, under, or for the purposes of, any law of the Commonwealth, of this State or of any other State or any Territory of the Commonwealth, relating to publications; or

(c) the Crown, the Minister, the Commissioner of Police or any member of the Police Force in respect of any act done or omitted to be done in good faith in the execution of or purportedly in the execution of any power, authority or duty conferred or imposed by section 12A of this Act.

SCHEDULE.

Schedule added by No. 39 of 1974, s. 11. S. 12A.

Warrant.

To the principal police officer at , in the State of Western Australia, and all other police officers in the said State.

WHEREAS it appears to me a Justice of the Peace, by the complaint on oath of (A.B.) of in the State of Western Australia, a member of the Police Force, that there is reasonable ground for suspecting that—

(a) indecent or obscene publications are kept for the purpose of gain or apparently for that purpose, in or on the premises situated at

(here describe the land, building, vehicle, vessel or place specified in the complaint);

OR

(b) one or more indecent or obscene publications have been sold, distributed, exhibited, lent or otherwise published in, from or on the premises situated at (here describe the land, building, vehicle, vessel or place specified in the complaint).

This is therefore, in the name of Her Majesty, to authorise and require you to enter the said premises, with such assistance and using such force as may be necessary, whether

Indecent Publications and Articles.

by breaking open doors or otherwise, and there to search diligently for and to seize all publications which appear to you to be indecent or obscene and to cause all such publications to be dealt with according to law.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

Given under my hand at this day of

19 . .