The Country Liberals’ have requested that the Speaker, Jane Aagaard, have the portrait of Bob Collins removed from display in Parliament House.

Manager of Opposition Business, John Elferink, made the request during Estimates Committee hearings in Parliament House this morning.

“The portraits of former Parliamentary speakers, chief ministers and opposition leaders hang in the Legislative Assembly,” Mr Elferink said.

“But unlike speakers and chief ministers, the portraits of the opposition leaders aren’t on public display – instead they’re in an area that’s not accessible to the public in the Opposition lobby.

“On that basis, it’s not widely known Mr Collins’ portrait is there, but I wonder what Mr Collins’ victims would think if they knew his portrait was still hanging.”

Mr Elferink said given the accusations levelled at Mr Collins in the years before his death, it is highly inappropriate his portrait remains on display.

“Mr Collins faced allegations in both the Northern Territory and the ACT of sexually abusing under-age males,” Mr Elferink said.

“This means we have a portrait hanging in a place of honour of a man charged in two jurisdictions as a paedophile.

“I understand the Territory Government has acknowledged the allegations against Mr Collins by paying victims compensation for the crimes committed against them.

“Mr Collins was charged by police and only escaped trial because he took his own life.

“It’s highly inappropriate that his portrait remain on display in Parliament House and it should be immediately removed.”

Further comment: John Elferink 0418 406 400