

Department of Justice Office of the Secretary
GPO Box 825
Hobart TAS 7001

To whom it may concern,

**RESPONSE TO JUSTICE LEGISLATION (ORGANISATIONAL LIABILITY FOR CHILD ABUSE) AMENDMENT
BILL 2019**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above proposed legislation. In making this response, RA Tas draws on the considerable interaction it has had since July 2016 in the delivery of the Royal Commission Support Service, and currently the delivery of the Redress Support Service, both funded by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services. As such we have looked at the proposed legislation through the lens of our clients, and survivors of institutional child abuse, and what they tell us about what needs to happen in order to ensure that no child ever experiences the hurt and pain they have survived.

With that in mind, RA Tas commends the Government on this draft legislation. The amendments contained in it address a strengthening of organisational responsibility for the care of children, and their liability if abuse is perpetrated, which survivors would applaud.

The amendment that allows a Court to set aside previous settlements to pave the way for civil litigation is also in line with survivor commentary.

RA Tas considers this Bill to be another vital step in achieving justice for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse, and ensuring all children are safe and protected.

Sincerely,



Mathew Rowell

Chief Executive Officer

Relationships Australia Tasmania