

**Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation  
Amendment Bill 2022**

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**Inquiry into the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order)  
and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022**

**About TASC National Limited**

TASC Legal and Social Justice Services is a not-for-profit organisation that serves over 4000 people per year across more than 400,000 square kilometers of Ipswich and South West Queensland. Now in our 40<sup>th</sup> year, TASC has developed from a small community legal center to a committed provider of high quality legal advice, social justice and advocacy services. TASC is one of the largest regional community legal and advocacy services in Queensland, where the community and staff work together in partnership to continue to enable justice and change lives.

TASC is a child safe organisation and welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry into the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.

Task understands and acknowledges that harm to children, including sexual abuse, can cause detrimental damage. In addition to effecting their general wellbeing, harm can affect a child's physical and emotional health, which in turn impacts on their development.<sup>1</sup> The National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children, establishes that child protection is everyone's responsibility. As a Non-Government Organisation, our contribution toward protecting all children, is an expectation to 'deliver services and contribute to the

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<sup>1</sup> Queensland Government, 'Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs' ([cyjma.qld.gov.au/protecting-children/about-child-protection](http://cyjma.qld.gov.au/protecting-children/about-child-protection)).

development of policy and programs on behalf of the government, and actively promote child, safety, protection, rights and wellbeing'.<sup>2</sup> TASC takes this responsibility very seriously, and supports any action to ensure the protection of children and their rights.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is an international human rights agreement of which Australia is a signatory, establishing our governments 'commitment to ensuring that all children in Australia enjoy the rights set out in the treaty'.<sup>3</sup> Regardless of race, religion or abilities, every child has the right to live a full life, with governments ensuring that children develop healthily.<sup>4</sup> Importantly, the Convention, comprising of 54 Articles, states the expectation, that governments should ensure children are protected from sexual abuse. Additionally, they must also provide protection from violence, abuse and neglect imposed by their parents or anyone else that looks after them.<sup>5</sup>

The National Framework for protecting children recognises that enhancing prevention strategies for child sexual abuse is key. Outlining the implementation for inter-jurisdictional exchange of criminal history for people that work with children, and, strengthening law enforcement by extending work in the detection, investigation and prosecution of online sexual exploitation.<sup>6</sup> *The Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004* (Qld) ("the Act") provides for those recognitions, and must, through review, reflection and evaluation be continually improved upon for that purpose.<sup>7</sup>

Our responsibility, is to ensure that advances in technology do not facilitate an easier, and less detectable, opportunity to exploit our children. The use of Anonymising Softwear such as Vaults and Black Hole applications, which both enable child exploitation, and, impede child protection by preventing police identification strategies, demand to be disclosed.

***TASC supports the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and other Legislation Amendment Bill.***

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<sup>2</sup> Australian Government, Department of Social Services, 'National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020'(1 June 2009) 12 <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/publications-articles/protecting-children-is-everyones-business>.

<sup>3</sup> Australian Human Rights Commission, 'What are Children's Rights?' (AHRC Education) <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/education/what-are-childrens-rights>.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Unicef Simplified Convention) Article 6; Children have the right to live a full life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Unicef Simplified Convention) Article 34; Governments should protect children from sexual abuse & Article 19; Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents, or anyone else who looks after them.

<sup>6</sup> Australian Government, Department of Social Services, 'National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020'(1 June 2009) 32-33.

<sup>7</sup> *Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004* (Qld).