



5 June 2017

Acting Committee Secretary
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE Q 4000

Email: lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017

We refer to the letter dated 19 May 2017 seeking Submissions on the above-mentioned legislation by 5 June 2017. We commend the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and the Queensland Government for their efforts in addressing historical inconsistencies in current legislation.

Protect All Children Today Inc. (PACT) is a non-profit community organisation established in 1986 as a service provider of court support as well as advocating for vulnerable children, young people and their families. PACT's Child Witness Support Program provides support for children and young people who are required to give evidence in criminal court matters, either as victims of, or witnesses to, a crime. PACT recruits Child Witness Support Volunteers to provide child victims and witnesses with support and information about the Criminal Justice System. Approximately, 70% of the children supported by PACT are victims of sexual assault. Therefore, it is through our experience that we offer the following comments.

Whilst we do not have expertise in this area, we are very supportive of the objects of the Bill to amend the *Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017* to enable the expungement of criminal records for historical homosexual activity between consenting adults. We appreciate this reform considers the Queensland amendments to criminal offences regarding homosexual activities, which occurred in January 1991.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this piece of legislation.

Yours sincerely


Alexandra Marks
Chairperson


Jo Bryant
Chief Executive Officer

Vice Regal Patron: His Excellency the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland