



13 July 2016

Research Director
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE Q 4000
Email: lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016

We refer to the letter from the Chair dated 6 July 2016 seeking submissions regarding amendments to the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. We would like to commend the Queensland Government on their commitment to protecting victims of domestic and family violence.

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.

PACT is supportive of the amendment to the Criminal Code to standardise the age of consent for sexual intercourse to 16 years. Any measures that improve the sexual health and wellbeing of young Queenslanders should be commended and embraced. This includes removing any legal barriers to young people disclosing their personal sexual history to a health practitioner.

It is pleasing to note that Queensland is finally coming into line with other States and Territories to remove this level of discrimination. Replacing reference to sodomy with anal intercourse is definitely a step in the right direction. Well done to all involved.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this piece of legislation. We trust our input has been of value.

Yours sincerely


Alexandra Marks
Chairperson


Jo Bryant
Chief Executive Officer

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

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