

**SUBMISSION**  
***Draft Limitations of Actions and Other Legislation***  
***(Child Abuse Civil Proceedings) Amendment Bill 2016.***

14/9/2016

Attention Mr. Mark Furner  
Chair of the Parliamentary Community Safety Committee

This is our submission to the proposed Draft Limitations of Actions and Other Legislation (Child Abuse Civil Proceedings) Amendment Bill 2016.

Tzedek endorses the draft *Limitations of Actions and Other Legislation (Child Abuse Civil Proceedings) Amendment Bill 2016.*

Tzedek ('Justice' in Hebrew) is an Australian-based support and advocacy group for Jewish victims/survivors of child sexual abuse promoting their needs and interests and offering them and other relevant stakeholders a range of services. The principal objective and activity of Tzedek is to promote the prevention or control of harmful or abusive behaviour, specifically, the prevention of harm arising from the sexual abuse of children within the Jewish community.

As an advocacy service, Tzedek supports legislative change to assist survivors have more equitable access to the justice system. This proposed Bill is an important reform because it has four elements to ensure the rights of survivors of child abuse to seek compensation for the often long standing effects of trauma caused by child sexual assault.

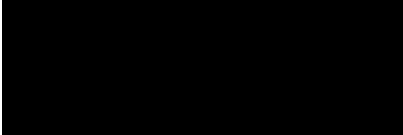
This Bill is in line with the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. The Redress and Civil Litigation Report 2015 recommends the immediate and retrospect abolition of statutory time limits for civil actions for personal injury arising from child abuse. The Royal Commission have not only recommended to just remove time limits but remove all obstacles to survivors in accessing justice through the court system.

As such Tzedek endorses the members Bill with the four Reform objectives:

1. retrospectively remove civil time limits for actions of personal injury arising from child abuse;
2. allow reopening of matters previously subject to a settlement (where an injustice was created as a result of the time limits);
3. limit the right of an institution to stay proceedings on the basis of passage of time, where the institution was the cause of the passage of time;
4. reinstitute jury trials for civil litigation for actions of personal injury arising from child abuse.

This reform is critical in recognising the impact of child sexual abuse and the long term trauma on adult survivors.

Regards



Dr. Michelle Meyer  
CEO, Tzedek