

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Submission regarding the Berkman Bill parliamentary committee process
Date: Thursday, 29 November 2018 5:23:17 PM

29 November 2018

The Chair
LACSC@parliament.gov.au

Dear Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to give feed back on the Berkman Bill (Civil Liability Institutional Child Abuse Amendment Bill 2018) which was presented to parliament 31st October 2018.

I am a survivor of 3 years of sexual abuse perpetrated at a private institution in Brisbane, I have the right to pursue the institution under the current legislation. The Berkman Bill introduced by the member for Miawar gives the right for anyone who has suffered and survived abuse the ability to seek justice. It is a fundamental right of everyone to be able to pursue justice for themselves. The current legislation restricts the ability of a person who has suffered physical abuse from pursuing the relevant institution and fight for justice.

I cannot under stand why the government thinks it is Ok to allow the people and institutions who abuse children physically, emotionally, psychologically to get off "scottfree". It is the obligation of every government to protect it constituents and the Berkman Bill expands the definition of child abuse to include serious physical abuse, which can be extended to include emotional and psychological abuse.

The Bill also goes on the include changes to but not limited to the following:

- Duty of Care definitions
- The definition of an "Institution"
- The definition of an "Official" of an institution or related entity.
- The definition of "related entity"
- The definition of a "relevant child"

To be sexual abuse means you have also been physically abused because the perpetrator had to touch you to sexually abuse you.

To be sexually abuse means you have been emotionally and psychologically abuse because no child has to ability to or the strategies in place to combat such abuse.

It is so important the government gets this legislation right and not only for the many thousands of people who have been abused in the past but through the right legislations and definitions we will be able to prevent more abuse in the future.

Thank you for your consideration

Yours Sincerely

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Sent from my iPad