



Ground Floor, 162 Boundary Street, West End Q 4101
PO Box 3449 South Brisbane Q 4101
Phone 07 3029 7000 | Fax 07 3029 7029
info@micahprojects.org.au | micahprojects.org.au
ABN 76 409 721 192 | ACN 620 134 787

Committee Secretary
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
LACSC@parliament.qld.gov.au

30 November, 2018

Dear Committee,

Micah Projects is a not-for-profit organisation committed to providing services and opportunities in the community to create justice and respond to injustice. We engage with people experiencing adversity due to poverty, homelessness, mental illness, domestic violence, disability and discrimination due to age, gender or sexual orientation. Micah Projects works to break down barriers that exclude people from housing, healthcare, employment, meaningful connections and to give people a voice. We assist and support each individual or family (including children) to resolve crisis, break social isolation, have a home, access health and community services and build community. Micah Projects provides a range of support and advocacy services to individuals and families according to their needs and capacity.

Micah Projects has supported the development and work of the Historical Abuse Network for over 22 years and the Civil Liability (institutional Child Abuse) Amendment Bill 2018 represents a significant milestone in the justice that they have been seeking for the past 25 years. We also note that Recommendation 46 of the Royal Commission highlighted the link between the implementation of the National Redress Scheme and the reforms relating to the time limits and the duty of institutions. Whilst the time limits have been removed for sexual abuse, the inclusion of physical and psychological abuse is still outstanding - as is the duty of institutions. The timeliness of the Bill is important to all who are seeking to make decisions in relation to their legal options in seeking a just response from institutions.

Micah Projects supports the Bill because -

- a) It includes psychological and physical abuse which has consistently been advocated for throughout the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Breaking Social Isolation – Building Community

Our hope is to create justice and respond to injustice at the personal, social and structural levels in society.

We seek to work collaboratively and respectfully with Indigenous communities and agencies. Micah Projects endorses the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Micah Projects Limited is a company limited by guarantee.

Whilst the Royal Commission was limited due to its terms of reference, the Queensland Government does not have to limit the Bill to only childhood sexual abuse as previous inquiries have done. This is of critical importance to members of the Historical Abuse Network and participants of Lotus Place across Queensland.

- b) The Bill provides for retrospective claims for the inclusion of all people, not simply a prospective response for the future. This is also of critical importance to members of the Historical Abuse Network and participants of Lotus Place.

Micah Projects commends the Member for Maiwar, Michael Berkman, for proposing this Private Members Bill.

I would be pleased to expand on any of the points above. I can be contacted via email [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Kind regards,



Karyn Walsh AM Hon.DSocWk & Nurs Qld
CEO, Micah Projects

