

**CRIMINAL LAW (COERCIVE CONTROL AND AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL 2023**

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Committee Secretary
Legal Affairs and Safety Committee
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26 October 2023

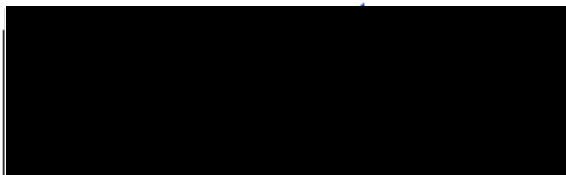
Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the Australian Christian Lobby (ACL), thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee regarding the ***Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023***.

Please find following, our submission for this Bill.

I am available to discuss any issues which may arise from this submission and would appreciate the opportunity to appear as a witness at a public hearing for the Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023.

Yours sincerely,



Rob Norman
Queensland Director

INTRODUCTION

The Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) is a grassroots movement with around 250,000 supporters in Australia, approximately 45,000 of whom live in Queensland.

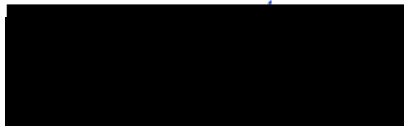
The *Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023* is symptomatic of a society that is becoming increasingly sexualised. Whereas marriage was once the basis for permanent, long term relationships, today we live in an increasingly sexualised culture, along with enabling legislation, that feeds into a heightened tolerance, and appetite, for casual sexual relations both within and outside marriages. This situation has created new classes of victims of sexual abuse that have previously not been considered and our submission is aimed at increasing protections for these victims of abuse.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ACL recommends that the *Criminal Law (Coercive Control and Affirmative Consent) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023* (the Bill) be amended as follows:

1. If the Government's plans to fully decriminalise prostitution proceed, we should expect a larger sex industry and increased sex-trafficking of women and girls.^{1 2} This will necessitate increased protections for prostituted persons (sex workers). The Bill in its current form does not offer substantial protections for prostituted persons. When considering protections for prostituted persons the committee should have in mind that ***sex paid for should not be considered as implied consent*** but as coercion by inducement.
2. *The Bill* should protect drug and alcohol dependent persons from coercion. It can easily be argued that a person under the influence of a drug or alcohol is not capable of providing affirmative consent. This protection should extend to drug, or alcohol, dependent persons who are offered money for sex, again this is coercion.
3. *The Bill* should protect women who are pressured to have an abortion on the basis that if she does not the relationship is threatened.
4. *The Bill* should **not** facilitate 'buyers regret' type claims (consensual sex which one later regrets is still consensual).
5. *The Bill* should include legislation that limits access to online pornography. Online pornography is known to feed into heightened sexual aggression in teens particularly.³

Yours sincerely,



Rob Norman

ACL Queensland Director

¹ The New Zealand Prostitution Review Committee, 2006-7. p.118.

² Seo-Young Cho; University of Marburg - School of Business & Economics, Axel Dreher; University of Heidelberg, Eric Neumayer; London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), Does Legalised Prostitution Increase Human Trafficking? World Development, 41 (1), 2013, pp. 67-82, Date Written: January 16, 2012 at: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1986065

³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6751001/>