

INQUIRY INTO SUPPORT PROVIDED TO VICTIMS OF CRIME

Submission No: 49
Submitted by: Shane Bouel
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Submitter Comments:

Dear Sir/Madam,I am writing in response to the Inquiry into Support Provided to Victims of Crime, specifically regarding the Criminal Code Act 1899 Part 5 and Forced Adoption. As a victim of forced adoption in Queensland, I urge the government to take action on policy reform to address this issue.It is my belief that there are two simple things that could greatly ease the burden on adoptees and their mental health. Firstly, birth certificates should state the correct relationship between guardians and birth parents. Past and current processes remove any mention of biological family, implying that the adoptive family gave birth to the adoptee. This makes it easier for adoptive parents to avoid telling adoptive children that they're adopted. Many people are unaware that this is still a standard policy in today's adoptions. Secondly, access to no fault no fee discharges should be made easier so that those of failed adoptions like myself are able to return to their family of origin. This would avoid the extreme, unnecessary trauma and the lengthy, excessively expensive court proceedings that adoptees face.As per the terms of reference, I suggest that the Queensland government coordinate state-wide services to ensure there is trauma informed, victim-centric, and timely support for victims of forced adoption, from the time of the incident and throughout the subsequent investigation and any prosecution. This includes reviewing how the criminal justice system, including the Queensland Police Service, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and court services currently support victims and how restorative justice conferences and processes may be improved upon. It is crucial to ensure that victims are kept informed and included in an appropriate and timely way throughout the investigation, prosecution, and parole period.Furthermore, it is important to review the operation and effectiveness of the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 (the Act) for victims of violence. This includes expanding the eligible victim's category to include home invasion and providing better, trauma-informed, and timely assistance and support to victims. Mapping victims' experiences through the financial assistance application process can identify ways to reduce the burden on applicants. Additionally, reviewing the Charter of Victims' Rights to identify common complaint themes from victims can inform future sector training needs. The government should also revise the existing initiatives in relation to the Act's operation and effectiveness.

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investigation, prosecution, and parole period. Furthermore, it is important to review the operation and effectiveness of the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 (the Act) for victims of violence. This includes expanding the eligible victim's category to include home invasion and providing better, trauma-informed, and timely assistance and support to victims. Mapping victims' experiences through the financial assistance application process can identify ways to reduce the burden on applicants. Additionally, reviewing the Charter of Victims' Rights to identify common complaint themes from victims can inform future sector training needs. The government should also revise the existing initiatives in relation to the Act's operation and effectiveness. I urge the government to consider the benefits, disadvantages, and resourcing impacts of any recommendations that may arise from this inquiry. I hope that this submission will help the government to better understand the issues surrounding forced adoption and improve support for victims of this traumatic experience. Please see: <https://medium.com/@thoughtless-del/criminal-code-act-1899-part-5-and-forced-adoption-7dc97aed1bc6> Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Shane Bouel