




Speech By  
**Melissa McMahon**

**MEMBER FOR MACALISTER**

---

Record of Proceedings, 13 August 2020

**CRIMINAL CODE (CHILD SEXUAL OFFENCES REFORM) AND OTHER  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.58 pm): I rise tonight to speak in support of this bill. In doing so, I speak in support of not only those organisations and individuals which contributed to the consideration of this bill—the submitters and the many wonderful organisations that work within the community—but also all those young people who have had to come forward, often in extremely difficult and trying circumstances, to try to seek justice. Victims dealing with the criminal justice system face many barriers, but it is certainly lamentable that the many barriers that have been before our youngest and most vulnerable for years and years have meant that many did not feel comfortable reporting. That has unfortunately meant that in many instances offenders have continued to prey on additional children. It is commendable that a bill such as this seeks to remove such barriers.

I thank all those submitters and the committee that contributed to discussion of this bill. This bill is a result of a number of reports that have proposed improvements to the criminal justice response to what is considered the most heinous of offences in our society, child sexual offences. The esteemed reports informing this bill include the *Criminal justice report* into institutional responses to child sexual abuse. The *Criminal justice report* contained 85 recommendations and this bill contains amendments to implement a number of the key recommendations. Recommendation 21 applies to retrospectivity, that is, that section 229B of the Criminal Code, the offence relating to the maintaining of a sexual relationship with a child—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Member for Macalister, I would ask you now to adjourn the debate.