



Media Statement
Launch of discussion paper, Child Abuse Royal Commission-related
laws
30 August 2019

THE WA community is invited to comment on the legal changes the State Government could make as a result of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The State Government is committed to creating a Safer WA for Children.

On behalf of the Government, the Department of Justice is running this consultation process, and has released a discussion paper for WA people to consider the sorts of changes to the criminal law they would like to see to make this happen.

The discussion paper includes various options for people to consider, including whether WA should introduce new criminal offences such as 'grooming', or failing to disclose, or concealing, child sexual abuse.

It also suggests banning convicted offenders from having previous good character or lack of previous convictions being taken into account when they are sentenced for committing child sexual abuse in circumstances where that offender's character or standing helped facilitate the offending.

Anyone who has an interest in law reform from the child safety perspective is encouraged to have a look at the discussion paper and consider making a submission.

The State Government has been very clear that community submissions are welcome, and encouraged, and will be considered.

The discussion paper and a guide on how to make a submission can be found on the [Department of Justice](#) website and the [Victims of Crime](#) website.

Submissions close on 18 October 2019.