

8 July 2019

Our ref: BP

The Hon Yvette D'Ath MP  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice  
GPO Box 149  
Brisbane Qld 4001

By email: [attorney@ministerial.qld.gov.au](mailto:attorney@ministerial.qld.gov.au)

Dear Attorney

### Consent in Queensland criminal laws

I write further to recent media reporting about whether the issue of consent in Queensland criminal laws remain appropriate, particularly as it relates to sexual offences.

This is a complex and potentially emotive issue for many in our community.

QLS has always welcomed community discussion about sexual consent laws but is not aware of any compelling evidence to:

- amend the current definition under section 348 of the Criminal Code; or
- amend the applicability of section 24 of the Criminal Code to chapter 32 offences.

However, it is always prudent to objectively assess the effectiveness of our current laws and to consider recommendations to address any potential deficiencies the evidence presents.

While we are not aware of compelling evidence to change the existing provisions, QLS is supportive of a reference being made to the Queensland Law Reform Commission for a proper examination of the issue. The QLRC is best placed to provide informed, evidence-based advice on this important issue.

The Society remains willing to engage with your officers on this topic and would welcome any further consultation.

I am particularly keen that the public discourse and any assessment of our existing laws is evidence-led.

Yours faithfully



Bill Potts  
President