

23 May 2018

Hon Yvette D'Ath
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Leader of the House
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Your ref

Our ref KT:MD

Dear Attorney

Review of consent in Queensland criminal law

I write further to public discussion of the operation of consent in Queensland criminal laws, particularly relating to Chapter 32 offences of the *Criminal Code*.

Sexual violence is a scourge in our society occurring in both public and private domestic settings. It is a complex and particularly difficult issue for the legal system and the community. Tackling it requires both:

- a continued and cooperative effort across Government and the community; and
- respect for fundamental legislative principles which underpin the rule of law in our State.

The Society is always supportive of consideration of our criminal justice system to make sure we have the balance right. We support a review of the definition of consent in our criminal law and note the Queensland Law Reform Commission may be well placed to bring the rigour needed for such a project.

The Queensland Law Society would be very keen to engage in any such review as an expert legal stakeholder and be consulted on any proposals for reform.

We are conscious that the law must respond to community expectations and also remain faithful to our fundamental tenets.

Yours faithfully



Ken Taylor
President