

19 September 2018

Our ref: BDS-CrLC

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

By email: attorney@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Attorney

Lack of consultation in recent reforms

Thank you for inviting representatives of the Queensland Law Society to the urgent briefing on 17 September 2018 to inform us of proposed measures for greater post-sentence monitoring of convicted sex offenders.

The Society notes the seriousness of these reforms and the need to enhance community safety by protecting Queenslanders from convicted serious repeat child sex offenders. We accept these amendments are responsive to real concern held by Government.

We can make no comment on the content of the amendments as we did not have the opportunity to review the drafting prior to introduction and passing on 18 September 2018.

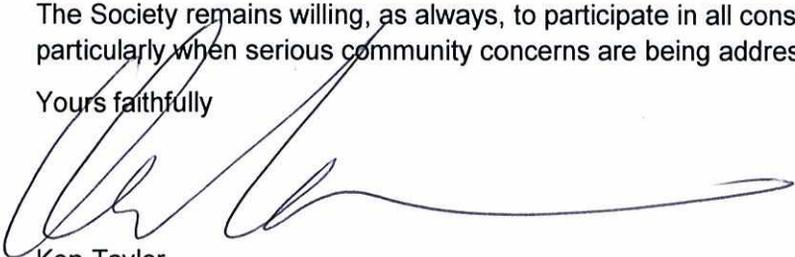
It is disappointing that the Society was not consulted on these reforms. As a legal stakeholder, we are in the unique position of being able to identify whether amendments best achieve their intent and avoid unintended consequences. If the ordinary protocols were followed, these matters would have been addressed through the public Parliamentary Committee review process.

We were informed the amendments were drafted over a number of weeks. This would have afforded sufficient time for targeted consultation with key stakeholders such as ourselves.

The last minute incorporation of these amendments to an existing Bill, already the subject of a full parliamentary committee process, without appropriate public scrutiny is particularly regrettable.

The Society remains willing, as always, to participate in all consultations and reviews, particularly when serious community concerns are being addressed in an urgent manner.

Yours faithfully



Ken Taylor
President