



1 March 2024

Committee Chair
c/o Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Senator Grogan

Inquiry into Climate Change Amendment (Duty of Care and Intergenerational Climate Equity) Bill 2023

I wish to thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee last week in relation to Senator Pocock's *Climate Change Amendment (Duty of Care and Intergenerational Climate Equity) Bill 2023*. I appreciated explaining aspects of the Commission's submission in more detail and hearing the questions and concerns about the Bill.

The Australian Human Rights Commission supports the intent of the Bill and offers recommendations in its submission for how to enhance its objectives. I note a recurring theme in discussions was how decision makers would be expected to operationalise a legislated duty of care to current and future children. I wish to draw the Committee's attention to the Recommendations in the Commission's submission that relate to the Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) tool which was developed by the Commission in partnership with UNICEF and published in October 2023.

The Commission's [CRIA tool](#) has been designed specifically to support government and service providers to appropriately consider the rights of children in project, policy, and legislative decisions. The 18-question checklist can be used to measure the impact of decisions on the wellbeing of Australian children and families and to guide decision making that supports their best interests. This tool utilises human rights principles to inform government

decision making and its use is endorsed as best practice by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Detailed information about the Commission's CRIA tool is included in our submission but I would be happy to make myself available to discuss it further if you have questions. I urge the Committee to include a recommendation for a CRIA tool to be incorporated into the proposed Bill to strengthen its operation and its outcomes for the human rights of current and future children.

Yours sincerely

Anne Hollonds
National Children's Commissioner