

24/9/2019

To whom it may concern,

Re the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Sexual Crimes Against Children and Community Protection Measures) Bill 2019

Firstly, I would like to express my support for the minimum mandatory sentencing of child sex offenders. I would also like to submit for your consideration the sentencing for life of an offender who is found guilty of multiple offences against children.

Related to this the fact that many of these offenders are members of religious organisations such as clergy (or those in a similar position regardless of title). Many of these organisations and offenders claim "Clergy privilege" to try and absolve their responsibility of reporting child sexual abuse. I would like to see such an excuse become a non-defence and that all allegations of child sexual abuse be reported to the appropriate authorities Australia wide – no exceptions.

A number of these organisations, among them the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society or Jehovah's Witnesses, have refused to support the National Redress Scheme and also claim Charity status. I would like to see that the definition of "Charitable Works" as accepted by the Charity Commission be amended to only include those works that actually help people in need such as clothing and feeding those in need or providing other practical help and assistance and not as the Jehovah's Witness do which is simply to distribute their own peculiar literature in an effort to gain more members and spread their cult like propaganda. Further I would also like you to consider stripping any organisation that refuses to join the redress scheme or accept and implement the findings of the Australian Royal Commission into institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (2016) be stripped of their charity status and be taxed as any other organisation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these matters,

Robert Testaz