

Violet Co Legal and Consulting

Answers to Questions on Notice

In regards to the suggestion, and quote from Liberty Victoria, I would further add to my evidence that may be helpful for members of the Inquiry:

I do not believe that strengthening consent laws will disadvantage certain types of people in our society; namely young boys and men and those with an intellectual disability.

- The Criminal Law has long-standing and well established mechanisms for dealing with **child offenders** - strengthening consent laws will not impact these existing mechanisms.
- The Criminal Law has long-standing and well established mechanisms for dealing with offenders with **intellectual disability and impairment** - strengthening consent laws will not impact these existing mechanisms.

Further, I strongly reject the notion that boys and men would be disadvantaged because of their "sexual experimentation" by strengthened consent laws - per the quote from Liberty Victoria. This notion is offensive and excuses rape and sexual assault in the name of furthering boys and men's "unbridled" and "uncontrollable" sexual impulses. Per the ANROWS research - this is a concerning notion that can excuse rape.

- The **single largest cohort of males who perpetrate sexual violence** against girls, women and others are **boys and men aged 15-19 years**.
- **The age of consent (as I understand) in all jurisdictions is 16 years of age**
- **Boys and men who are old enough to consent to sex, should not have any diminished expectations of ensuring that the sex they engage in is consensual for all parties, not just themselves.**
- Research demonstrates that perpetrators who use sexual violence against women are likely to **reoffend, and likely to offend against intimate partners and children**.
- For us to break cycles of violence, it is imperative that we back the very small (13% of victims report to police) number of women and girls coming forward to report sexual assault by this cohort of offenders. **It is an opportunity for our justice, and social services, to intervene early and prevent re-offending in the years, and decades, following an initial report of sexual violence against boys and men aged 15-19 years.**

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