



7 October 2022

Ms Sophie Dunstone
Committee Secretary
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email: LegCon.Sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms Dunstone

Inquiry into the Parliamentary Privileges Amendment (Royal Commission Response) Bill 2022 (Inquiry)

Thank you for your email dated 30 September 2022, in which you invite the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (**Royal Commission**) to make a submission to the Inquiry.

The Royal Commission has given consideration to the interpretation of s 16(3) of the *Parliamentary Privileges Act 1987 (Cth)* (**PP Act**). The issue has arisen when the Royal Commission has proposed to refer in its own publications to evidence given to Parliamentary Committees and to recommendations made by those Committees.

While the scope of s 16(3) of the PP Act is not entirely clear, the legislation has not proved to be a substantial impediment to the work of this Royal Commission. Other Royal Commissions may be in a different position.

Of course, the Royal Commission has no objection to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee inquiring into the proposed Parliamentary Privileges Amendment (Royal Commission response) Bill 2022. However we do not propose to make a submission to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Ronald Sackville AO KC
Chair