



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA (Chair), Ms Bec Cody MLA (Deputy Chair)
Mr Michael Petterson MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Crimes (Consent) Amendment Bill 2018

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Aoife Herrick

Committee Secretary
Justice and Community Safety Committee
LACommitteeJCS@parliament.act.gov.au

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Dear Member of the Legislative Assembly

I am writing to you to express my support for the Crimes (Consent) Amendment Bill 2018 currently being considered by the Justice and Community Safety Committee.

The issue of sexual violence and harassment against women in our community deeply concerns me.

As highlighted in the Human Rights Commission report *Changing the Course* (2017) students at Canberra's universities are more likely than their interstate peers to be sexually harassed or assaulted whilst engaging in campus and off-campus activities. The time for leadership is now.

The introduction of a positive definition of consent in the *Crimes Act 1900* (ACT) would be a progressive step forward for gender equality in the ACT. It would set a benchmark for appropriate sexual behaviour, assist with public education campaigns aimed at building relationships based on respect amongst peers and bring the ACT into line with all other Australian jurisdictions which have a statutory definition of consent.

I urge you to support the Crimes (Consent) Amendment Bill 2018.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to following the work of the Justice and Community Safety Committee in progressing this important issue.

Yours sincerely


Aoife Herrick