



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY  
Mr Peter Cain MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson (Deputy Chair),  
Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

## Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Corrections and Sentencing Legislation  
Amendment Bills 2022

**Submission Number: 008**

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3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

Attn: Kathleen de Kleuver  
Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

By email: [lacommitteejcs@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:lacommitteejcs@parliament.act.gov.au)

Dear Committee,

**RE: Inquiry into the Corrections and Sentencing Legislation Amendment Bill 2022**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the amendment Section 102 of the Crime (Sentence Administration) Act 2005. Domestic Violence Crisis Service Inc. (DVCS) welcome the ACT Government's ongoing focus on improving responses to domestic and family violence in the Territory and their considerations of the impact of changes to victims who have experienced violence at the hands of a intimate partner or family member.

Organisational Overview

The Domestic Violence Crisis Service has been operational within the Canberra Community since 1988. The organisation has a strong history as the only specialist Domestic and Family Violence frontline service in the ACT. Integrating principles of empowerment, self-determination, respect and equality, DVCS works to promote a society where interpersonal relationships are free from violence. The priority of DVCS is safety for all people affected by domestic, family and intimate partner violence, and the encouragement of self-responsibility and accountability by people who use violent and abusive behaviour. We have strong and robust partnerships across the service sector which support those impacted by violence through all phases of their unique journey.

Comment – Section 102 of Crime ACT

While we have limited resources to undertake this work and subsequent submission, DVCS do wish to highlight one area for further consideration.

Previously, this section had stipulated that when a Corrections Officer became aware of a breach of a good behaviour order (GBO) they would have an obligation to report the breach to the Sentence Administration Board (SAB). Under the new amendment, there is scope for the Corrections Officer to give formal warnings to offenders in relation to a breach of GBO instead of reporting it to the SAB. The amendment states that the Director-General will be tasked with making the guidelines around when a Corrections Officer can give a warning and when they need to report to the SAB. The guidelines are not alongside the amendment bill for consideration.

In the context of coercive control and patterns of behaviour some may use in perpetrating Domestic, Family and Intimate Partner Violence, we hold concern that this amendment being instituted without the opportunity to assess the guidelines, may lead to missed information about the pattern of behaviour which sits in a broader context than the corrections officer would know and as such, would be unable to consider it alongside the broader information it holds.

We would caution this amendment without further clarity on what those guidelines will provide scope for.

Upon request, DVCS can provide further information in relation to the inquiry.

Kind Regards,



Sue Webeck  
Domestic Violence Crisis Service  
Chief Executive Officer