



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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 the Administration of Bail

Submission Number: 005

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Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Office of the Legislative Assembly

Via LACommitteeJCS@parliament.act.gov.au

14 May 2024

Dear Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety,

Submission to the Inquiry into the Administration Bail in the ACT

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in relation to the Standing Committee's Inquiry into the Administration Bail in the ACT (the 'Inquiry').

The Victims of Crime Commissioner welcomes Government attention on this important issue. The Victims of Crime Commissioner is a member of the ACT Law Reform and Sentencing Advisory Council which has received a sentencing referral from the ACT Attorney-General in relation to reviewing the ACT bail legislation. The ACT Law Reform and Sentencing Advisory Council is required to report on the issues and provide its recommendations to the Attorney-General by no later than 30 November 2024. In those circumstances, the Victims of Crime Commissioner intends to prioritize and provide a longer and carefully considered submission in relation to bail to the ACT Law Reform and Sentencing Advisory Council.

Broadly, the Victims of Crime Commissioner considers it vital that bail decision makers are equipped with the skills and legislative framework necessary to make evidence-based assessments in relation to the potential risk an accused person poses to victim-survivors and the community. We have also consistently advocated for the prioritisation of victim-survivors' participation and safety in relation to bail which includes ensuring victim-survivors are consulted and informed about the granting and reviewing of bail decisions in accordance with the Charter of Rights for Victims of Crime. Finally, the Victims of Crime Commissioner notes the importance of both the effective supervision of bail conditions as well as the enforcement of breaches of bail.

Yours sincerely

Heidi Yates
Victims of Crime Commissioner