



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Mrs Giulia Jones MLA (Chair), Ms Bec Cody MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA,  
Mr Chris Steel MLA

## **Inquiry into Domestic and Family Violence— Policy approaches and responses**

### **Response to discussion paper**

The Committee received comment from the Restorative Justice Unit (RJU) regarding pages 28–30 of its discussion paper.

The Committee resolved to publish this comment and that it be uploaded to its inquiry website alongside the discussion paper as an alternative viewpoint.

The response to the discussion paper as received from the RJU is **attached**.

## Inquiry into domestic and family violence—policy approaches and responses

Re: Discussion Paper - Domestic and Family Violence: Policy approaches and responses

Dear Andrea,

I have noticed that restorative justice (RJ) has been mentioned in the Discussion Paper under the heading of 'Some specific initiatives ... focused on perpetrator rehabilitation'. I would draw your attention to my concern that this is an incorrect placement and suggest that this mention of RJ be placed under 'Reforms to the Justice System Interventions' instead, as detailed below.

In the ACT Restorative Justice is a victim-centric scheme, designed and legislated to meet the needs of victims of crime, in this case victims of DFV will be able to access RJ from July, 2018. Placing it in any policy-related document under the heading of 'perpetrator rehabilitation' is misleading and potentially undermining of a proper understanding of this initiative among our stakeholders.

If this document can be updated, my suggested changes below would remedy this situation from RJU's perspective.

### **page 28-30**

#### **HEADING 5.39 'Some specific initiatives across Australia that are focused on perpetrator rehabilitation'**

Dot point five should be:

- establishing a family violence Restorative Justice framework and pilot project to provide victims the opportunity to participate in facilitated processes with perpetrators (Victoria and ACT);

### **page 28**

#### **HEADING 5.32 'Reforms to the Justice System Interventions'**

New points following 5.34 can be added:

5.35 establishing a family violence Restorative Justice framework and pilot project to provide victims the opportunity to participate in facilitated processes with perpetrators (Victoria);

5.36

The legislated Restorative Justice Scheme in the ACT will move into phase 3, allowing victims of DFV and sexual offences access to restorative justice conferencing in 2018 as an adjunct to the formal system approaches.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss further.

Best regards,  
Amanda  
Manager Restorative Justice Unit