



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA (Chair), Ms Bec Cody MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Nicole Lawder MLA,
Mr Chris Steel MLA

MEDIA RELEASE

**Call for submissions on proposed amendment of the
sexual consent provisions of ACT criminal law**
Crimes (Consent) Amendment Bill 2018

The Chair of the Justice and Community Safety Committee (JACS) of the ACT Legislative Assembly, **Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA**, has announced a Committee review of a proposal to amend rules which govern current sexual consent provisions in the ACT *Crimes Act 1900*.

The proposal is in a Bill introduced into the Assembly earlier in 2018 and was referred to the JACS Committee for consideration, examination and report by the end of October 2018.

The Bill is a Private Member's Bill which was introduced by Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA and is currently on the Assembly Bills List for further consideration following the JACS report: http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_57900/default.asp.

Ms Lee highlighted the detailed Terms of Reference for the Inquiry – which are on the Committee website at: https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1234779/Terms-of-Reference.pdf and said, “the JACS members are concerned that the issues of consent – which is a matter of considerable concern and interest in the community – particularly following several recent Australian cases and the reference of this question to the NSW Law Reform Commission.

Questions the Committee is looking at include whether the Bill, if enacted, would amend the consent provisions in our Crimes Act in a manner, and with the result, which looks into the current community thinking on consent, but also ensures the continued protection of the fundamental principle of presumption of innocence.”

Ms Lee also said that the Committee has sought the views of a range of expert opinion, and from organisations and groups which have addressed the questions raised by consent provisions. The Committee is also seeking the community's views and anyone who wants to make their view to the Committee is welcome to do so. Written submissions should be lodged by **14 September 2018**.

The Committee website is: <https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-committees/standing-committees-current-assembly/standing-committee-on-justice-and-community-safety/inquiry-into-the-crimes-consent-amendment-bill-2018>.

Statement Ends
21 August 2018

For further information, please contact:

Committee Chair, **Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA** on 02 6205 1919
Committee Secretary, **Mr Andrew Snedden** on 02 6205 0199 or at
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