



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Submission cover sheet

Inquiry into the Civil Law (Wrongs) (Organisational Child Abuse Liability) Amendment Bill 2025

Submission number: 001

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From:
To: [LA Committee - Legal](#)
Cc: [Bills, Kate](#)
Subject: Civil Law (Wrongs) (Organisational Child Abuse Liability) Amendment Bill 2025 [SEC=UNOFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 18 July 2025 1:59:26 PM
Importance: High

I am writing to this committee in support of the above Bill that was recently introduced by Shane Rattenbury. As a survivor of myself, I strongly urge the committee to pass this Bill ASAP so that institutions are held accountable for any abuse that an employee/volunteer/staff or member under their institution may do to a child. Please see the Statement I provided to Shane to read out at the time he introduced the Bill.

To be abused as a child by a trusted cricket coach—someone in a position of authority, someone you were taught to respect and look up to—is a betrayal that cuts to the core. The trauma inflicted is lifelong. It alters the course of a young person’s life in ways that words can scarcely capture.

But what makes that trauma even more devastating is when the very institution responsible for safeguarding children not only fails to act—but knowingly turns a blind eye.

In this case, the institution in question was aware of concerns prior to employing the coach. Staff members made jokes about his inappropriate and “hands-on” behaviour with players. These were not isolated incidents, nor were they unknown. And yet, he was still given access to children. Still allowed to operate in a position of trust. Still protected—while children were not.

That is not negligence. That is institutional failure. And it must have consequences.

This bill is not just necessary—it is urgent. It ensures that institutions are held to account for the people they employ, engage, or allow to volunteer under their name. It sends a clear message: the safety of children is not optional. It is a legal and moral obligation.

Let this assembly be on the right side of history. Let us say, without hesitation, that we will no longer tolerate cultures of silence, denial, or inaction. That children will be protected. And that institutions will finally be held accountable when they fail to do so.

Do the right thing, pass this Bill ASP, give survivors some closure, and protect future generations to come!