



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 Sexual Assault Reform
Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

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Via Email Only: LACommitteeJCS@parliament.act.gov.au

To the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety,

Re: Inquiry into Sexual Assault Reform Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important legislative reform. AFI strongly supports the proposed amendments and has provided the below comments on disability-specific aspects of the Bill.

We have attached a copy of our previous submission made to the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS), in July 2022. Our recommendations in the attached document apply to the current Bill, however our main concern is regarding the new section 74A.

Per recommendation 23 of the *Listen. Take action to prevent, believe and heal* report, the legislation should acknowledge evidence of prior family violence in a way which “explicitly applies to people with disability, in care relationships and residential settings, highlighting the findings of the ongoing Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.” This “acknowledges the specific circumstances of people with disability, including carer and paid support worker relationships, and relationships between residents of residential settings such as group homes.”

The current draft legislation does not encompass the care relationship, and therefore is not inclusive of the domestic violence that people with disability are likely to experience. It is essential that section 74A includes evidence of domestic violence between parties in a care relationship (recommendation 23(f)). The attached submission highlights how a ‘care relationship’ should be defined.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] You can also contact Craig Wallace, Head of Policy, [REDACTED]
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Yours sincerely,

Craig Wallace
Head of Policy
Advocacy for Inclusion