

VICTIMS OF CRIME ASSISTANCE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2023

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27 October 2023

Ms Corrine McMillan MP
Chair
Community Support and Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Via email: CSSC@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Ms McMillan,

Submission on the Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Community Support and Services Committee on the Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 (Bill). We have no concerns about this submission being published.

knowmore welcomes the significant increase in the amounts of financial assistance proposed by the Bill. In our view, the increased amounts will ensure payments from the Victim Assist scheme more appropriately recognise the serious harm done to victims and survivors of child sexual abuse and better meet victims' and survivors' support needs.

We note that, in most cases, this is the first increase to the amounts of financial assistance available under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* (VOCA Act) since the Act commenced in 2009.¹ In our view, all amounts should be indexed for future years to ensure that the real value of financial assistance for victims and survivors is maintained. This would also prevent a repeat of the present situation, whereby amounts of financial assistance

¹ See the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* (Qld) as made,
www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/html/inforce/2009-09-17/act-2009-035.

available under the VOCA Act have not increased in 14 years, representing a significant deterioration in the real value of the assistance and a failure to keep pace with the rising costs of supports.

Should we be able to provide any further information to assist the Committee, I can be contacted on [REDACTED] Alternatively, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Manager Law Reform and Advocacy, can be contacted on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

NICK HUDSON

Acting Chief Executive Officer