Improving the Response of the Justice System to Sexual Offences: Questions

**Issues Paper A**

**Working Together to Respond to Sexual Offences: Systems**

1. What would make it easier for people who have been sexually harmed to get the supports and services they need, so they can decide whether to report the sexual harm?

2. How can collaboration within the sexual assault system be improved, so that the justice system responds effectively to sexual harm?

3. How can the relationship between family violence services and the sexual assault system be improved, so that the justice system responds effectively to sexual harm?

4. How can the relationship between child protection and the sexual assault system be improved, so that the justice system responds effectively to sexual harm?

5. How can we improve how other services and systems work with the sexual assault system, so that people are supported to seek justice?

6. Is there a need for a stronger focus on governance or shared outcomes in the response of the justice system to sexual harm? If so, what should this look like?

7. What are the opportunities for, and benefits of, improving data, research and evaluation in relation to sexual offending?

8. How well does the sexual assault system work? How would you improve it?

**Issues Paper B**

**Sexual Offences: Key Issues in the Criminal Justice System**

1. Is there a need to improve attitudes towards victim survivors or the understanding of sexual harm within the criminal justice system? If so, how?

2. Do you support introducing a specialist court for sexual offences? Why or why not?

3. If you support introducing a specialist court for sexual offences, what features should it have?
4 Do you support changing the role or nature of the jury in trials for sexual offences? Why or why not?

5 How well are reforms working to avoid delays in the criminal justice process, and what other reforms could address delay?

6 How well are support programs for people who have experienced sexual harm working? How can they be improved?

7 What other issues affect the criminal justice process as a whole, and what should be done to address them?

Issues Paper C

Defining Sexual Offences

1 Is there a need to change any of Victoria’s sexual offences, or their application? If so, what changes?

2 How well is Victoria’s model of communicative consent working? Should there be any changes?

3 Is there a need to change any of Victoria’s technology-facilitated sexual offences, or their application? If so, what changes?

4 Are new offences or changes to offences needed to address existing or emerging forms of sexual harm? If so, what new offences or changes?

Issues Paper D

Sexual Offences: Report to Charge

1 How well are Sexual Offence and Child Abuse Investigation Teams (SOCITs) and Multidisciplinary Centres (MDCs) working? How can they be improved?

2 What other issues need to be addressed to improve the experience of the police investigation process for adults who have been sexually harmed? How can they be addressed?

3 What other issues need to be addressed to improve the experience of the police investigation process for children who have been sexually harmed? How can they be addressed?

4 What other issues need to be addressed during the investigation process to support successful criminal prosecutions in sexual offence cases? How can they be addressed?

5 Do you support access to alternative ways of reporting sexual harm? Why or why not?

6 If you support alternative ways of reporting sexual harm, what features should they have?
Issues Paper E

Sexual Offences: The Trial Process

1. How well are charging and prosecution decisions for sexual offence cases working? How can they be improved?
2. How well are ground rules hearings for sexual offence cases working? How can they be improved?
3. How well are special procedures and alternative arrangements for giving evidence in sexual offence cases working? How can they be improved?
4. How well are jury directions for sexual offence trials working? How can they be improved?
5. Is there a need to change any laws on evidence or procedure for sexual offences? If so, what should be changed?
6. What are some of the challenges with the appeals process for sexual offence cases? How can these be addressed?
7. How well does the Children’s Court of Victoria deal with sexual offence cases? What should be improved?
8. What are other issues with the trial process for sexual offences, and how should they be addressed?

Issues Paper F

People Who Have Committed Sexual Offences

1. Do responses to sexual offending sufficiently address the diverse needs of different people who have committed sexual offences? If not, what more is needed?
2. How well are rehabilitation or reintegration measures for people who have committed sexual offences working? How can they be improved?
3. How well are post-sentence detention and supervision, and sex offender registration working? How can they be improved?
4. Is there a role for early intervention or diversion programs for adults responsible for sexual harm? Why or why not?
5. If you support early intervention or diversion programs for adults responsible for sexual harm, what should be the features of the program?
6. What is working well in responding to harmful sexual behaviour in children? What improvements can be made?
7. What other issues need to be addressed to improve Victoria’s approach to sexual offending?
Issues Paper G

Sexual Offences: Restorative and Alternative Justice Models

1. Do you support adopting a restorative justice model for sexual offences? Why or why not?

2. If a restorative justice model is adopted, what should its features be?

3. Is there a role for an inquisitorial model or features for sexual offences? If so, what should this look like?

4. Is there a role for new initiatives to enable people who have experienced sexual harm to tell their stories and have them acknowledged? Why or why not?

5. Are there Aboriginal justice models that you think should be considered for sexual offences? If so, what are their strengths and weaknesses?

6. Do you support another alternative justice model for sexual offences? How should it work?

Issues Paper H

Sexual Offences: Civil Law and Other Non-Criminal Responses

1. What aspects of other justice processes provide best practice examples for supporting people who have experienced sexual harm?

2. How can the interaction between other justice processes and the criminal justice system be improved?