
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?