Michael D McKiterick (DJCS)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 10 September 2019 9:16 AM
To: DJCS-VLRC-Committals (DJCS)
Subject: Feedback

Good Morning,

I just wanted to provide some feedback for the law reform into committals:

I am originally from the UK so the committal process was new to me when I came to Australia nearly 3 years ago.

I find the committal process just an extra stress for victims. ALL committals I have been to have resulted in the matter going to trial. The hearing itself can be extremely hard on a victim as the defence will use this as a way of really being aggressive and hard on a victim as they are cross examining before a magistrate rather than a jury so they are not concerned how they come across.

The questions at a committal are often not relevant and certainly will not be asked as part of a trial. The process just prolongs the court process and the courts are already stretched and these extra hearings just add to long wait times. They are a great money maker by defence but an extra cost on public funds which could be avoided.

If the OPP make the decision to charge and look through the evidence prior to charging then they will see if there is suitable evidence to go to trial.

Many thanks and kind regards,

[redacted]

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