



5 July 2019

**Bruce Gardiner PSM**

Acting Chair

Victorian Law Reform Commission

via email: [anna.beesley@lawreform.vic.gov.au](mailto:anna.beesley@lawreform.vic.gov.au)

Dear Mr Gardner,

**Contempt of court consultation paper**

Thank you for inviting the Court to make submissions in relation to this consultation paper.

The Court:

1. is satisfied that the penalties for contempt and breach of suppression orders are currently appropriate;
2. supports, in principle, the further development of a system for the mutual recognition and enforcement of Victorian suppression orders in other Australian states and territories;
3. considers that it may be appropriate for either Victoria Police or the Court's principal registrar to be able to institute contempt proceedings in this jurisdiction;
4. requests greater guidance for coroners regarding:
  - a. the procedure and form for informing and charging the person of the contempt, as the *Coroners Act 2008* states at section 103(4) '*... the coroner must cause the person to be informed of the contempt with which he or she is charged and may adopt any procedure that the coroner thinks fit.*'; and
  - b. when to use the contempt warning.

Thank you again for providing the Court an opportunity to comment on this important reference.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caitlin English'.

**Caitlin English**

Acting State Coroner