

## CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AMENDMENT BILL 2019

I respectfully write to you with regards to the above and do hope my opinion is valuable to your final conclusions.

The historical past has shown us how easy it was for our children to be abused and preyed on and in light of this I strongly feel the innocence of children should be protected in our society. I applaud the Minister in taking the step to right the many wrongs of the past and putting in place the frameworks which will hopefully limit or at least curtail it in the future.

With reference to the amendment in respect of recommendation 7.3 And 7.4 under clauses 51/52 of the Royal Commission into the Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, I disagree that you have only singled out the Catholic Church where else abuse also occurred in other Christian, Muslim and non denomination schools, orphanages and activities. To single out the Catholic Church seems like a target on the church and gives a negative perspective of the church as well as marginalise priests and religious.

I would like to see an amendment which encompass all groups who are involved in the care of the young eg. early child care workers, school counselors, out of home care workers, all organisations who work with children which would include ALL religious ministries from ALL religions. Only then will this be meaningful and fair amendment written into law.

The Minister cannot cherry pick certain groups to try to rectify weaknesses in our society which has long gone without redress. In my opinion this also needs more consultation with ALL organisations who work with children and take into account the sensitivities of religion and the rights of the faithful congregation.

Thank you for listening to my petition.