

9 November 2020

Dominic Fernandes
Director
Legislative Services
Department of Justice
Level 17, 26 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Attn: Ms Subhan Dellar
Acting Principal Policy Officer

By email: Subhan.Dellar@justice.wa.gov.au
LegPolicy@justice.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Fernandes

STATUTORY PROHIBITION OF CROSS-EXAMINATION BY UNREPRESENTED DEFENDANTS IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL ABUSE

Thank you for your letter dated 2 October 2020 inviting the Law Society of Western Australia to provide feedback in relation to the above.

The Law Society supports the proposed amendments to the *Evidence Act 1906 (WA)* (the Act) as an appropriate protection of vulnerable witnesses in civil matters, consistent with the protections found in sections 106G and 25A of the Act which apply in criminal proceedings.

The Law Society is interested in what other reforms of the Act are being contemplated by the Department of Justice and looks forward to being consulted on any further proposed law reform.

If you wish to discuss the above or if you have any queries please contact Mary Woodford, General Manager Advocacy on 9324 8646 or mwoodford@lawsocietywa.asn.au

Yours sincerely



Nicholas van Hattem
President