

The Hon. Mark Speakman MP
Attorney General
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence
By email: office@speakman.minister.nsw.gov.au and policy@justice.nsw.gov.au

22 January 2021

Dear Attorney-General

Re: *Civil Liability Amendment (Child Abuse Settlement) Bill 2020*

Domestic Violence NSW (**DVNSW**) thanks you and the Department of Communities and Justice for the opportunity to provide a submission on the public consultation draft of the *Civil Liability Amendment (Child Abuse Settlement) Bill 2020* ('the Bill'). Please accept this letter as DVNSW's submission.

Domestic Violence NSW is the peak body for specialist domestic and family violence services in NSW, providing a representative and advocacy function for over 80 specialist domestic and family violence services across NSW, and the women, families and communities they support.

We commend the NSW Government for its genuine reform intentions.

Alongside many stakeholders, including Women's Legal Service NSW and the Greens NSW, we strongly support reforms in NSW to allow a pathway to set aside past unfair settlements or in regards past judgments on claims of child sexual abuse. However, we share the concerns raised regarding the proposed model.

DVNSW is concerned that the proposed Bill does not open a fair or workable pathway to justice for victims of child sexual abuse, as outlined in the rationale of the discussion paper *Setting aside settlement agreements for past child abuse claim*.

We endorse the key recommendations made by Women's Legal Service NSW (on the discussion paper) and the Greens NSW (on the draft Bill). We urge the NSW Government to redraft the Bill in line with their recommendations to ensure these important reforms can progress. As always, thorough consultation is essential with key stakeholders to ensure that reforms have positive outcomes.

Yours sincerely



Delia Donovan
Chief Executive Officer, DVNSW