

FACT SHEET

Child Safety Reform Implementation Monitor Bill 2024

The Child Safety Reform Implementation Monitor Bill 2024 (the Bill) supports the Tasmanian Government's commitment to establish an independent reform monitor (the Monitor) to oversee and report on the implementation of the recommendations of the *Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings* (the Col).

The Commission emphasised the importance of the Monitor being independent from executive government. Reflecting this, the Bill expressly provides the Monitor is not subject to the general direction or control of any Minister in performing its and functions and exercising its powers, including with respect to the contents of any of its reports.

The Bill creates the statutory role of the Monitor, with the salary to fund the role reserved by law from the Public Account. This structure further ensures the Monitor's independence, by ensuring the funding is available outside of a budget process, as stipulated in the Bill.

The Bill sets out the objectives and functions of the Monitor, which are, in broad terms, to ensure accountability and transparency in respect of implementation of reform recommendations, to engage and consult with relevant groups, and to evaluate and report on the implementation, and resulting effectiveness of, relevant report recommendations.

The Bill specifies the skills and experience required to undertake the role of the Monitor, as well the terms of their appointment.

The Bill provides the Monitor is to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework, consult with relevant agencies and peak advisory bodies, and to produce written reports on its findings and conclusions, including reporting to the Parliament. These reports, are due annually, focusing on the progress of implementations, and at five and ten-year intervals, focusing on effectiveness over time. The Bill also provides that the Monitor may produce other reports where it sees fit.

The Bill also provides the Monitor with the appropriate powers to undertake the role, such as ability to request certain information and request to enter relevant premises. The Bill also affords the Monitor certain protections. For example, the Monitor is protected from liability in the same manner as a Supreme Court judge.

The Bill has a Sunset clause for the 31 July 2034, following delivery of its 10-year periodic report and final annual report. The Bill provides that this date can be changed (either brought forward or extended) by regulation, but only where such change is approved by the Parliament.

The Bill also provides the Governor may make regulations, and makes consequential amendments to the following Acts: *Archives Act 1983*; *Corrections Act 1997*; *Right to Information Act 2009*; *Youth Justice Act 1997*.