



Media Release

Joint Sessional Committee on Gender and Equality

Wednesday, 12 March 2025

The Joint Sessional Committee on Gender and Equality has recently concluded its inquiry into the Expungement of Historical Offences Amendment Bill 2024.

The Committee finds the Government's proposed ex gratia payments, of \$5,000 per expunged charge that resulted in the annotation of official criminal records and \$2,500 per expunged charge that did not result in an annotation, to be manifestly inadequate.

The Committee further notes the importance of taking a victim-focused approach, including the need for timely action and the use of the term 'redress' in preference to 'ex gratia' or 'compensation'.

The Committee recommends a three – tiered redress scheme for those who have had their historical homosexual and/or cross-dressing charges and/or convictions successfully expunged as outlined in Recommendation 4 detailed below.

The Committee recommends an automatic payment upon expungement as a one-off payment, not per charge and/or conviction. The Committee notes should this recommendation be accepted by the Parliament of Tasmania, consequential amendments will need to be made to the Expungement of Historical Offences Amendment Bill 2024.

The Committee's recommendations are as follows:

- 1. The Committee recommends a victim-focused approach should be taken by the Committee, the Parliament of Tasmania and the Government in the consideration of redress in the Expungement of Historical Offences Amendment Bill 2024.**
- 2. The Committee recommends the term redress be used to describe any proposed payment in the Expungement of Historical Offences Amendment Bill 2024, as this term reflects a compassionate and victim-focused approach.**
- 3. The Committee recommends the mechanism for redress recognises timeliness is a critical factor as it is understood many of those eligible for the expungement of historical homosexual and cross-dressing offences are of an advanced age.**



4. The Committee recommends the Expungement of Historical Offences Amendment Bill 2024 be amended to facilitate the following one-off payment (not a payment per charge and/or conviction) to individuals who have their records successfully expunged, for:
 - a) persons who were charged but not convicted of offences relating to cross-dressing and/or consensual same-sex sexual conduct and did not serve time in jail: \$15,000
 - b) persons who were convicted of offences relating to cross-dressing and/or consensual same-sex sexual conduct and did not serve any time in jail: \$45,000.
 - c) persons who were convicted of offences relating to cross-dressing and/or consensual same-sex sexual conduct and served time in jail or were subjected to other forms of punishment, e.g. conversion practices: \$75,000.
5. The Committee recommends payment available in the Expungement of Historical Offences Amendment Bill 2024 be available automatically upon expungement.
6. The Committee recommends consequential amendments be made to give effect to Recommendations 4 and 5.

The Final Report is available at:

https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0025/91807/FINAL-Gender-and-Equality-Committee-Inquiry-into-the-Expungement-of-Historical-Offences-Amendment-Bill-2024-Report.pdf

For further information, please contact the Chair of the Committee, Hon. Ruth Forrest MLC, on 0419 879 524.
