

## FACT SHEET

### ***Justice Miscellaneous (Reporting Procedures) Bill 2025***

This Bill amends reporting procedures in three Acts. One of the amendments implements recommendation 19.6 of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings. The other amendments mean the Magistrates Court and Supreme Court annual reporting dates will be in line with many other reporting timeframes.

Recommendation 19.6 reads "The Tasmanian Government should introduce legislation to amend the *Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013* to clarify that, in addition to the duty to report in certain circumstances, any person can notify reportable behaviour to the Registrar of the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Scheme."

Currently, the *Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013* (the Act) provides a duty of a reporting body to notify the Registrar of reportable behaviour. A reporting body includes a Government department or state authority, other licensing bodies, Tasmania Police and any other prescribed bodies. Reportable behaviour is prescribed in the regulations. It means behaviour that poses a risk of harm to vulnerable persons.

The Commission of Inquiry found that although the Act contemplates the Registrar receiving information about reportable behaviour other than through the duty to report, there is no specific legislative provision for this. The Bill amends the Act to clarify that any person can notify reportable behaviour to the Registrar.

This amendment will clarify an important part of the Registrar's work within the broader system under which concerned Tasmanians can raise concerns. Immediate child safety concerns should still be made to the Child Safety Services' Advice and Referral Line (1800 000 123) under notification provisions in the *Children Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997*, or to police. Child Safety Services and police both already notify the Registrar of concerns.

Once reports are received, they will be matched where possible against the register of applicants and registered persons and appropriate action taken in line within the provisions of the Act. For example, this could lead to further risk assessments, and rejection of applications, or suspension or cancellation of registrations.

It is intended that the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People website will be updated to include an online reporting pathway for the public.

The Bill also amends the *Magistrates Court Act 1987* and *Supreme Court Civil Procedure Act 1932* to change the annual reporting dates from 30 November to 31 October. Annual reports are an important tool for Government, Parliament and the public, to assess the performance and achievements of an entity throughout a year. Bringing forward the reporting date in line with other bodies means reports will be received in time to be tabled in Parliament by the end of the calendar year.