

# MEDIA RELEASE

## TJHC makes range of recommendations in Criminal Justice submission to Royal Commission



14 November 2016

In its recent submission to the Royal Commission's Criminal Justice consultation paper the Truth Justice and Healing Council has recommended the creation of a new, nationally consistent criminal law, relating to the reporting of child sexual abuse.

The submission calls for a new provision in Australian law requiring a person who has information leading the person to form a reasonable belief that a sexual offence has been committed against a child to disclose that information to the police unless the person has a reasonable excuse, as identified in the law, for not doing so.

A reasonable excuse could include where someone already believes the allegation has been reported to the police.

The Council said in Victoria the obligation to report child sexual abuse did not apply if the victim was now mature and requested that the information not be disclosed.

This, in the view of the Council, does not meet the interests of child safety particularly in a case where the alleged perpetrator might still be alive.

The Council also recommended that it would not be appropriate to introduce into the criminal law a provision seeking to attach criminal liability to institutions in which child sexual abuse occurs.

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For more information on the Truth Justice and Healing Council go to: [www.tjhcouncil.org.au](http://www.tjhcouncil.org.au)

For more information on the Royal Commission go to:  
<http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>