

Submission to the Victorian Law Reform Commission

Focused Review of How the Change or Suppression Practices Ban Is Working

Please note that submissions must be relevant. We only review the matters detailed in the terms of reference. We recommend using the consultation paper and these questions to help guide your submission.

We will publish public submissions on our website, unless they are offensive, defamatory, or outside the scope of the review.

We will not publish the names of individuals who make a submission. We will also redact any information which may indirectly identify individuals.

The consultation paper relates to change or suppression practices, which can cause ongoing trauma and long-term health issues. If you need counselling or help you can get support by contacting the organisations on our [support page](#) or page 3 of the consultation paper.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Name | |
| Organisation: (optional) | |
| Email: | |

Do you want your submission to be kept confidential?

(Confidential submissions will not be published on our website or elsewhere)

Yes

No

Please provide your comments on the questions below. You may answer all or only some of the questions as relevant to you.

- 1. Has the Act reduced or stopped change or suppression practices? Describe any impact you think the Act has had on the occurrence or the nature of change or suppression practices.**

- 2. To what extent do you think the community is aware of and understands:**
 - a. the Act and how it works**
 - b. what change or suppression practices are**
 - c. the harm caused by change or suppression practices.**

- 3. Could the Act's operation and effectiveness be improved? If so, how?**

4. How clear is the Act's definition of what is and what is not a change or suppression practice? If further clarity is needed, what forms of clarification would be most helpful?

5. How clear is the exclusion for health service providers? If further clarity is needed, how could this best be achieved?

- 8. Are there any barriers to:**
 - a. reporting change or suppression practices to VEOHRC**
 - b. VEOHRC facilitating outcomes of reports**
 - c. VEOHRC conducting investigations.**

If so, please describe what those barriers are.

- 9. Are there changes that could help support VEOHRC to carry out its functions or improve the effectiveness of the civil response scheme? If so, please describe any changes.**

10. Are there barriers to reporting, investigating and prosecuting criminal change or suppression offences? If so, what are they?

11. Are there other aspects of the criminal offences in the Act that limit their effective operation? If so, what changes or supports could improve their operation?

12. Do existing avenues for redress adequately meet the needs of victim-survivors of change or suppression practices? Are there gaps, harms or barriers that require an additional or separate redress mechanism?

13. Should a civil cause of action be introduced under the Act? What distinct purpose would it serve compared to existing pathways?

Consent

I agree to the VLRC Information privacy policy

(<https://www.lawreform.vic.gov.au/information-privacy-policy/>)

I agree to VLRC retaining my contact details to send me updates about this project. This information will not be shared with anyone else, and I can unsubscribe at any time via email to

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Email your submission to csp@lawreform.vic.gov.au or send it by post to:

Victorian Law Reform Commission

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Submissions close on 24 March 2026

For more information on how we treat submissions see our **Submissions Policy**.

Find further information on this review and the consultation paper on the **project page**.