



Government response welcomed on spent convictions scheme

The Victorian Government has presented its response to the parliamentary committee report on a legislated spent convictions scheme and has supported the recommendation made by the Legislative Council’s Legal and Social Issues Committee to introduce a scheme in Victoria.

“I welcome this response from the Victorian Government to our report as it will put into action the important recommendation we made after wide consultation with the community,” Committee Chair Fiona Patten said.

The [government response](#) notes that it supports the key elements of a controlled disclosure framework for old criminal convictions, as recommended by the Committee.

“I welcome in particular the balance that is being struck, and that was reflected in the Committee’s report, between public safety and the ability for people to be rehabilitated so that they don’t carry the burden of minor past convictions throughout their life,” Ms Patten said.

“I would like to see more detail about the scheme the Government intends to implement but trust that will be revealed soon.”

The Committee’s [report](#) was presented to Parliament on 27 August 2019 and followed a series of public hearings with a range of people and organisations with lived experience of how the lack of a spent convictions scheme in Victoria was having an impact in the community.

“Importantly, the Government’s support for the Committee’s recommendation can not only bring us into line with other states across Australia but make Victoria’s scheme the most effective in the country,” Ms Patten said.

“This is a clear example of the vital work that our parliamentary committees are doing to ensure that our laws meet the needs and expectations of our community,” she said.

“I again want to thank all those people in the community who contributed to our inquiry and shared their stories with us. By stepping forward and participating you have made a real difference,” she said.

The government response and the Committee’s report are available from the Committee’s [website](#).