

8 October 2020

Mark Gepp MLC
Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee
Parliament of Victoria, Spring St
East Melbourne VIC 3002

By email only to: Helen.Mason@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Gepp,

Further amendments - COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2020

The Law Institute of Victoria ('LIV') has been provided with a subsequent briefing by the Attorney General's office in relation to the issues raised in our previous correspondence to you dated 7 October 2020.

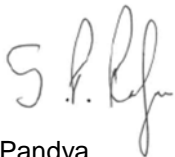
We understand that further amendments to the COVID-19 Omnibus (Emergency Measures) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2020 ("the Bill") have been proposed to be managed through the House.

We confirm that we are supportive of the Government's proposal to remove the extended powers to detain in the Bill, in its entirety and understand that the status quo will remain in force under the current legislation.

We are also supportive of the proposed amendments to clarify the classes of persons under 'authorised officer', acknowledging that the Government is seeking to ensure specificity to include persons in which the Secretary may appoint as appropriate based on their skills, attributes, experience or otherwise or in a prescribed class of person, such as Victoria Police or WorkSafe Inspectors. We commend the Government's aim of ensuring transparency in setting out the limits on powers each class of persons can exercise, for instance flexibility to ensure contact tracing powers are extended to those with appropriate skills for vulnerable or disadvantaged people, those with mental illness, disability, homelessness, and for Torres strait Islander or Aboriginal individuals and culturally or linguistically diverse communities.

We thank you again for providing us an opportunity to provide feedback and we welcome any further comments, questions or queries.

Yours sincerely



Sam Pandya
President



Adam Awty
Chief Executive