



Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
Attorney-General
Minister for Industrial Relations
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate

Reference: MC20-033848

Mr Ken O'Dowd MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email: petitions.committee.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr O'Dowd

Thank you for your email of 10 November 2020 to the former Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations, the Hon Christian Porter MP, regarding Petition EN1856. I welcome the opportunity to respond to this petition.

The petition raises concerns about '90 year suppression orders' that were purportedly made over documents provided to the Commonwealth Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. I am advised that no such suppression orders have been made by the Commonwealth Parliament or any federal court. This Government did bring forward amendments to the *Royal Commissions Act 1902* to exclude information obtained at a private session from public access for 99 years (section 6OM). The personal and sensitive nature of people's accounts of how they have been affected by child sexual abuse justified this action and it is limited to private session related information.

The petition also raises similar concerns about the Royal Commission into the New South Wales Police Service. This Royal Commission was established by the New South Wales Government, to whom any concerns should be directed.

The petition also raises concerns about corruption in public institutions. The Government has released draft legislation to establish a Commonwealth Integrity Commission (CIC) for public consultation. The CIC will be a centralised, specialist centre for investigating corruption in the federal public sector. The Government is currently considering whether the CIC should have jurisdiction over the federal judiciary. Further information on the CIC is available at <https://www.ag.gov.au/integrity/consultations/commonwealth-integrity-commission>.

Thank you again for bringing this petition to my attention.

Yours sincerely

Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations

20/11/2021