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DPAC Policy and Delivery Division  
GPO Box 123  
HOBART TAS 7001

**MENTAL HEALTH  
LIVED EXPERIENCE  
TASMANIA**

ABN 61 703 771 105

UNIT ONE 33 MELVILLE STREET  
HOBART TASMANIA 7000

PO BOX 109 SANDY BAY POST OFFICE  
SANDY BAY TASMANIA 7006

T+61 (0) 3 6223 1952

[WWW.MHLET.ORG.AU](http://WWW.MHLET.ORG.AU)

Attention: Monitoring Bill

**RE: Submission to the Establishment of the Child Safety Reform Implementation Monitor Bill 2024 (The Bill)**

MHLET (Mental Health Lived Experience Tasmania) supports the establishment of the [Child Safety Reform Implementation Monitor Bill 2024 \(The Bill\)](#), an independent reform monitor to oversee and report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings.

MHLET notes, in particular, the importance of an independent position to oversee and report on the implementation of recommendations.

Our main feedback on The Bill is to draw attention to the omission of language regarding lived experience expertise. We recommend that all aspects of reviewing the implementation of monitored recommendations go beyond 'consulting' with people who have been directly affected by sexual abuse. Instead, the process should explicitly include and collaborate with victim-survivors in designing consultations, overseeing those consultations, and moving beyond an advisory role to being instrumental in determining how, when, why, and what is consulted.

As an organisation that advocates for collaboration with people with lived experience – who are being consulted **because** of their lived experience – we recommend that the framework of the Monitor's remit seeks to redress the omission of stating lived experience expertise and leadership, as core to the success of the work. The monitor should consider the possible and important shifts in outcomes of the work if the lived experience of survivors of institutional sexual abuse were placed at the forefront. We believe the monitor will have limited success if lived experience is not embedded from the outset.

Additionally, a trauma-informed approach to the Monitor's work, while seeking to embed victim-survivor lived experience, is crucial to reducing the possibility of re-traumatisation for those involved in the Inquiry and the implementation of its recommendations and ensuring the safety and well-being of staff, victim-survivors, and the Monitor.

While the lived experiences of victim-survivor offer insights and knowledge invaluable for the Monitor's work it is imperative to prioritise the emotional, physical, and psychological well-being of all parties throughout the process. When survivors of trauma occurring in services or systems are asked to engage with content that has evoked harm, fear, danger, vulnerability, or powerlessness the

Monitor bears responsibility to facilitate contributions in a way that prevents re-traumatisation while maximising safety, choice, and control. It is crucial to acknowledge that traumatic content is likely to arise and to safeguard the process accordingly.

Our specific recommendations for The Bill, are particularly in relation to Part 3 (Role of the Implementation Monitor), Section (10) (Objectives of the Implementation Monitor), and Section (11) (Functions and Powers of the Implementation Monitor):

- (1)** Ensure the consultation process with stakeholders is inclusive, collaborative, and goes beyond advisory roles to actively involve victim-survivors in designing, overseeing, and shaping of the process from the outset.
- (2)** Establish a trauma-informed approach to all consultations, advisory engagements, and actions, ensuring the safety and well-being of staff, individuals, and the monitor throughout the process.
- (3)** Establish a lived experience advisory board or committee, focused on reducing risk to survivors and staff, to ensure that victim-survivor lived experience expertise is embedded from the outset and throughout the monitor's work.

Sincerely,

Tash Smythe  
CEO