



The New South Wales Bar Association

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NSW GOVERNMENT ABANDONS VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

The President of the New South Wales Bar Association, Phillip Boulten SC, today accused the State Government of unfairly punishing victims of violent crime, including sexual assault and child abuse, with its savage cuts to victims compensation introduced into Parliament this week.

The Victims' Rights and Support Bill excludes many victims of sexual assault and other violent crimes from receiving victims compensation.

“The Bill imposes a ten year limitation on claims for victims compensation, including child abuse and sexual assault. It is well documented that many victims of these crimes do not report abuse for many years, due to the trauma involved in disclosure” said the President of the New South Wales Bar Association, Phillip Boulten SC today.

“This arbitrary limit will deny many of those most in need of assistance compensation for the abuse they have endured” Mr Boulten said.

The Government's savage cuts to the scheme will reduce the maximum lump sum payout from \$50,000 to \$15,000. Victims of the most serious types of sexual assaults will only be receive a maximum of \$10,000.

“The Government's proposals are particularly harsh in the light of the many cases that the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse is expected to uncover in the course of its work” said Mr Boulten.

“The Association recognises that existing victims compensation scheme has been under intense financial pressures for some time, however the government's changes are an insult to victims of sexual abuse and other violent crimes.”

“We call upon the Parliament to reject these changes, which undermine the very purpose of the victims compensation scheme and disregard the needs of those most in need of support.”

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