



# Victim Support Australia Inc.

The representative voice of crime victim services

Georgina Fuller  
Research Officer  
Crime Reduction and Review Program  
Australian Institute of Criminology  
GPO Box 2944  
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Ms Fuller

## PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT FUNDING PROGRAM EVALUATION

Please accept my apologies for the late submission from Victim Support Australia to the evaluation of the funding program of the Proceeds of Crime Act. I hope nonetheless that the views of the Association are useful.

Victim Support Australia (VSA) Inc is a national professional association the members of which are government and non-government victim services, researchers and others working to promote the interests of victims of crime. Member services provide state and territory wide access to support and access to justice.

VSA made a submission to the earlier Sherman Review of the Proceeds of Crime Act. That submission recommended that the objects of the distribution of proceeds of crime be expanded to include victims of crime and projects working to support victims of crime. The Sherman Report (2006) unfortunately failed to acknowledge the submission but did discuss a similar recommendation from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Sherman commented (para9.33) that the victims of Commonwealth offences were 'victimless' or 'indeterminate' or the victim was the Commonwealth itself. It further commented that to include victims and victim programs in the objects of distribution was a major policy change. Sherman concluded that the circumstances did not warrant this change and recommended the issue be kept under review.

It is the submission of VSA to the current evaluation that the circumstances have indeed changed and now require that policy change. The federal criminal jurisdiction has expanded to include human victims (for example in trafficking, sexual slavery and similar offences). Moreover, the Commonwealth is, through its' various entities, a recipient of distributions of proceeds. For



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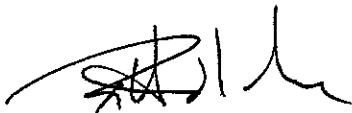
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example, its law enforcement and crime prevention programs have received substantial distributions in past years.

VSA therefore **recommends** that s298 of the POCA be expanded to include *measures relating to assistance for victims of crime*. The wording, we suggest, could reasonably encompass both victims as individuals and entities, as well as projects and programs designed to assist victims of crime. Furthermore, VSA **recommends** that the oversight body determining the distribution of funds from the Confiscated Assets Account include representation from persons knowledgeable about issues to do with victims of crime.

Should you wish to discuss further issues arising from our submission, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Ms Robyn Holder.

Yours sincerely



PH  
Harvey Hatch  
Chairperson  
Victim Support Australia Inc.

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