

Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2005

SASS Submission 10 December 2015

SASS welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the *Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2005*. Our comments on the proposed amendments are as follows.

Note that where 'proposal' is used, this refers to the corresponding number on the left-hand side of the table of proposed amendments.

Proposal 1

SASS supports the proposed amendment.

Proposal 2

SASS supports the proposed amendment, but raises two further queries. Firstly, we suggest that the terms 'regularity' and 'frequency' be defined. For example, we note that in the *Crimes (Child Sex Offenders) Act 2005 (ACT)* 'regular contact' is defined as unsupervised contact occurring for three days or more (these do not need to be consecutive) over a 12 month period. SASS recommends the inclusion of a similar definition.

Secondly, we suggest the inclusion of 'contact via a third person' within the definition of 'reportable contact'.

Proposal 3

SASS supports the proposed amendment.

Proposal 4

SASS supports the proposed amendment and the intention to reduce ambiguity. We do however raise a concern that there may be some situations in which a registered sex offender is required to travel without seven days prior notice – for example in the situation of a family emergency or their own medical emergency. We therefore suggest the inclusion of a provision that allows an exception in particular justified situations.

Proposal 5

SASS supports the proposed amendment.

Proposal 6

SASS supports the proposed amendment.

Proposal 7

SASS supports the proposed amendment.

Proposal 8

SASS supports the proposed amendment.

Proposal 9

SASS supports the proposed amendment, although we do recommend that police officers must be able to prove that they have reasonable grounds for seeking the information.

Proposal 10

SASS supports the proposed amendment.

Proposal 11

SASS supports the proposed amendment.

Proposal 12

SASS supports the proposed amendment.

Proposal 13

SASS supports the proposed amendment.

Proposal 14

SASS supports the proposed amendment.

Proposal 15

Proposal 16

SASS supports the proposed amendment; however, we recommend that a time period is included to set how long the offender may be detained for.

Proposal 17

SASS supports the proposed amendment. We recommend that information to be reported should include whether the offender has any children attending child care – and if so, the details of that child care service (in addition to details of any children attending school).

Proposal 18

SASS supports the proposed amendment. Children and young people who commit sexual offences are particularly vulnerable to experiencing shame, stigma and social isolation due to their behaviour. The imposition of strict conditions that limit their ability to participate in normal educational, sporting, social and community activities is likely to have grave implications on their ability to overcome their behaviour; establish healthy patterns of socialisation; and successfully re-integrate into their families, schools and communities. Whilst the safety of other children and adults must be given priority, the re-integration of children and young people who have been found guilty of a sex offence should be supported as much as possible. This approach aligns with the best interests of the child principle contained within the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997* (Tas).

Proposal 19

SASS supports the proposed amendment, but also recommends that relevant non-government organisations be included within the information-sharing provisions as key service providers to both offenders and victims of sexual offences.

Proposal 20



Sexual Assault Support Service

SASS supports the proposed amendment, but also recommends that registered sex offenders should be specifically informed of the existence of this provision. We believe that this will act as a deterrent to some sex offenders who may seek to have contact with a child.

Proposal 21

SASS supports the proposed amendment.

For more information about this submission, please contact:

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