



Shane Rattenbury MLA

Attorney-General

Minister for Consumer Affairs

Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Minister for Gaming

Member for Kurrajong

Dear Canberra community and stakeholders

I am writing to provide an update on the progress of the ACT Government's commitment to raise the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility (MACR) in the ACT.

This reform remains a very high priority.

In recent months, the ACT Government has met with a range of community and legal groups, child and youth service providers, victims of crime and justice organisations to discuss how these reforms will impact the Canberra community. While there is significant support to take this historic step, many challenging questions still need to be considered.

Today, the ACT Government released a Discussion Paper to guide the community's consideration of these issues. The feedback we receive will help steer the ACT Government's approach to the complex legal and system-level questions that lay at the heart of this important reform.

This feedback will complement the findings of the independent review, led by Emeritus Professor Morag McArthur, of the service system gaps and needs, in the context of a higher MACR. The ACT Government has committed \$120,000 for this crucial review, which will identify service system changes that could better support children and young people when the MACR is raised.

Given the ACT is leading the way on this reform in Australia, it is critical that we get it right. My hope is that raising the MACR in the ACT will provide other States and Territories with a blueprint for doing the same, allowing all Australian children and young people the chance to be the best they can be.

I encourage you to read the Discussion Paper and send through your thoughts and feedback. The Discussion Paper can be found on the YourSay website and submissions can be emailed to macr@act.gov.au. Submissions on the Discussion Paper will end in 6 weeks, on **Thursday 5 August 2021**.

Thank you for your engagement on this reform to date. I look forward to reading your insights on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

Shane Rattenbury MLA

ACT Legislative Assembly London Circuit, GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

 +61 2 6205 0005

 rattenbury@act.gov.au

 @ShaneRattenbury

 shanerattenburymla

 shanerattenbury