



# STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria  
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

## MEDIA RELEASE



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### Grimley Getting the Community Involved in Law-Making

State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party Stuart Grimley MP will be debating a Bill that he has introduced to Parliament today that aims to increase the involvement of everyday Victorians in changing the law and "hand the power back to the people" in a small way.

If passed, the *Victorian Law Reform Commission Amendment Bill 2020* will ensure that at least two reports initiated by the VLRC within any financial year have to have been a Community Law Reform Project and therefore originated from public suggestion.

Since its establishment in 2000, only 8 (or 3% of) Community Law Reform Projects - matters which were brought to the Commissions attention via public suggestions - have been completed out of 240 submissions made by the public.

Currently - and under the new proposed changes - any Victorian can make suggestions of a change to the law via the VLRC website. Ultimately, the VLRC will determine which suggestions will be researched and reported on.

The Bill also intends to mandate the VLRC to report annually on the number of publicly referred matters the Commission received, the number of reports that originated from publicly referred matters and any amendments made by the Attorney-General on publicly referred matters and why the amendments were made.

Mr Grimley says that despite the Crossbench representing a sizeable portion of - and the balance of power in - the Legislative Council, there is no formal access given to crossbenchers to law advising commissions and agencies, despite the need for all minor party MP's to regularly draft or amend legislation.

In his speech today, Mr Grimley will say that "through formally amending the way that the Victorian Law Reform Commission operates, there is the potential for minor parties and community-based organisations to refer matters to the Victorian Law Reform Commission".

The Victorian Law Reform Commission (VLRC) is the central agency for law reform in Victoria; examining, reporting and making recommendations to the Attorney-General about possible areas of law reform.

### Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"All laws should reflect community views and expectations and this is one way of increasing the involvement of everyday people in law-making.

The Commission is publicly funded and therefore should serve a community purpose.

These changes seek to ensure at least two reports handed down by the VLRC in any given year have originated from the public. There are also changes to increase the types of information the VLRC reports on, to increase transparency of this agency and its research."

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