



# STUART GRIMLEY MP

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

## MEDIA RELEASE



Thursday 15 October, 2020

### **Grimley Welcomes #LetUsSpeak Law Changes**

State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party Stuart Grimley MP has welcomed the announcement by the Victorian Government that it will amend the Judicial Proceedings Reports Act to allow victim survivors of sexual assaults to publicly tell their stories.

Mr Grimley had been contacted by many victim survivors after the #LetUsSpeak campaign was made public, with concerns they were legally unable to share their name and circumstances of their sexual abuse.

Through the Justice Legislation Amendment (Supporting Victims and Other Matters) Bill 2020, the Government says that it intends to give more control to victims of these assaults over publication of their identity.

Mr Grimley said he hoped the legislation would genuinely allow victims the right to speak, while also continuing to protect the privacy of victims who wish to remain anonymous.

A former SOCIT Detective, Mr Grimley also said it was vital that victim survivors were adequately consulted on legislation when it is developed to ensure their rights are effectively protected.

One victim survivor – Ashleigh Rae – who since the #LetUsSpeak campaign was launched, has won the right to use her name through a private court battle using crowd-funding and has given comment to Mr Grimley, included below.

### **Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:**

“After many months of pressure from #LetUsSpeak, Nina Funnell and many victim survivors, it is great to see the Government make changes to gag laws.

Sexual abuse survivors shouldn't have a Government dictating whether they are able to share their name and story, as long as survivors who wish to remain anonymous aren't impacted.

I look forward to passing this legislation swiftly and encourage any victim survivors who have comments or concerns about the new Bill, to contact me and voice their thoughts.”

### **Quotes Attributable to victim survivor Ashleigh Rae Cooper:**

It's heartening to see that our words have been taken seriously and we can tangibly see that in the proposed changes. However, there are still very complex items to work through that will require further consultation and work. This is not a perfect solution, but it is a solid beginning.

I look forward to the day when Survivors all over Victoria have the right to their voices restored, and a fundamental shift in how we create and use law in placing the burden of responsibility firmly on perpetrators, not Survivors.

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