



TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Commission is to inquire into the Tasmanian Government's responses to allegations and incidents of child sexual abuse in institutional contexts, and in particular, without limiting the scope of its inquiry, what the Tasmanian Government should do to:

- I. better protect children against child sexual abuse in institutional contexts in the future
- II. achieve best practice in the reporting of, and responding to reports or information about, allegations, incidents or risks of child sexual abuse in institutional contexts
- III. eliminate or reduce impediments that currently exist for responding appropriately to child sexual abuse in institutional contexts, including addressing failures in, and impediments to, reporting, investigation and responding to allegations and incidents of abuse, and
- IV. address, or alleviate the impact of, past and future child sexual abuse in institutional contexts, including, in particular, in ensuring justice for victims through, processes for referral for investigation and prosecution and support services.

For the purposes of its inquiry and recommendations, the Commission is to have regard to:

- I. the experience of people directly or indirectly affected by child sexual abuse in institutional contexts, and the provision of opportunities for them to share their experiences in appropriate ways while recognising that many of them will be severely traumatised or will have special support needs
- II. the adequacy and appropriateness of the responses by the Tasmanian Government, and its officials, to reports and information about allegations, incidents or risks of child sexual abuse in institutional contexts, including, without limiting the generality of its inquiry, the adequacy and appropriateness of:
 - i. the responses by the Department of Education to allegations of child sexual abuse in Tasmanian Government schools
 - ii. the responses of the Tasmanian Health Service and the Department of Health to allegations of child sexual abuse, particularly in the matter of James Geoffrey Griffin (deceased 18 October 2019)
 - iii. the responses of the Department of Communities Tasmania to allegations of child sexual abuse at Ashley Youth Detention Centre
- III. the need to focus its inquiry and recommendations on systemic issues, recognising nevertheless that it may be informed by individual cases and may need to make referrals to appropriate authorities in individual cases, and
- IV. changes to laws, policies, practices and systems that have improved over time the ability of government institutions to better protect against and respond to child sexual abuse in institutional contexts.

The Commission is directed to make any recommendations arising out of its inquiry that it considers appropriate, including recommendations about any policy, legislative, administrative or structural reforms.

The Commission is required to submit its report by no later than 31 August 2022.