

SUPPORT AFTER MURDER Inc.

"moving on with support"

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RE REVIEW OF VICTIMS RIGHTS AND SUPPORT REGULATION 2013

RE: THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONER OF VICTIMS RIGHTS

Please note our organisation only deals with Victims of Homicide

Our organisation welcomed the appointment of the Commissioner of Victims Rights in June 2013 however we were quite alarmed that the appointment was not in keeping with the independence such an appointment should carry.

Indeed in a discussion paper about the position in 2010, presented to Mr Smith while he was in opposition, it advised: " An internal investigation by a department investigating itself can easily be perceived as a less than objective view of the facts."

The NSW shadow attorney-general in June 2013 called for Cabinet to "rethink" the decision, arguing that it was "critical" that such a position was seen to represent "victims and not the government".


"If this position is to achieve all the things the government has promised for so long then it must not only be independent but be perceived to be independent," Mr Lynch said. "Anything less will sell victims short."

Our organisation feels that as the complaints under the Charter of Victims Rights are more than likely to be in relation to government agencies it would seem obvious that independence from government is necessary to ensure, not only that complaints are dealt with appropriately, but are seen to be made independently. We also note that Victims Services is itself an agency that could be the subject of complaints under the Charter, which leads to a clear conflict of interest.

We feel that an amendment to the law should be implemented to ensure that the position of Commissioner for Victims Rights is advertised and made available for a greater range of applicants.

We would be happy to discuss any issues arising from this submission.

Yours Sincerely


Peter Rolfe
PRESIDENT