



## Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Assessment Summary

The Triple Bottom Line Assessment is required to be published in accordance with Part 4, section 23 (1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2016

### 19/640 Victims' Rights Legislation Amendment Bill 2020

#### Summary of impacts:

- The Bill will introduce the Charter of Rights for Victims of Crime (the Charter) in the *Victims of Crime Act 1994*, which will include victims' rights and an accountability framework where rights are breached.
- Justice agencies will also benefit as the Charter will assist in managing victim expectations about what will occur as their case progresses through the system, and assist in building a more transparent and accessible system.
- Delivering victim rights leads to improved outcomes across the ACT community including encouraging people to report crime, improving victim cooperation for better investigation and prosecution outcomes, and earlier victim recovery leading to reduced demand for long-term health services.

Level of impact	Positive	Negative	Neutral
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Social		
Level of impact	Impact	Summary
Positive	Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women disproportionately experience family violence and are expected to benefit from the Charter. For instance, receiving case updates may improve victim safety, and the introduction of opportunities for information and participation throughout the justice process may lead to increased reporting of family violence incidents.</li> <li>• Gender diverse people are typically over-represented as victims of violence. However, these groups may under-report as a result of historical distrust of justice agencies. The right to respectful treatment which is included in the Charter may assist in addressing this imbalance.</li> </ul>
Positive	Health (Community and mental health)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victims of crime may experience trauma from the crime itself as well as re-traumatisation as a result of participating in the justice process.</li> <li>• Introducing victim rights may lead to earlier recovery from crime and less trauma from the justice process, resulting in reduced long-term reliance on health and victim support services.</li> </ul>

Positive	Access to services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Charter introduces a right to referral and access to appropriate victim support services where eligible.</li> <li>The Charter also introduces a right to access any adjustments required to participate in justice processes, to meet the needs of diverse and marginalised groups.</li> </ul>
Positive	Access to social inclusion/participation and community activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The aim of the Charter is to increase a victims' respectful treatment and participation in the justice process.</li> <li>Upholding victim rights may result in earlier victim recovery from the impacts of crime, leading to greater participation in community activities.</li> <li>The right to respectful treatment is intended to benefit social inclusion for diverse groups who may be more likely to report crimes and feel supported within their communities (e.g., Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTIQ+ people, and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse people).</li> </ul>
Positive	Human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The introduction of the Charter highlights victim rights to complement those rights afforded to all people and justice system participants in the <i>Human Rights Act 2004</i>. A note in the Bill refers to the fact that victims have rights in other places including the <i>Human Rights Act 2004</i>.</li> </ul>
Positive	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Charter and its implementation plan addresses key feedback from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community about improving system accessibility and respecting the privacy of victim information.</li> <li>Introducing victim rights along with agency resources may provide additional information and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims of crime.</li> </ul>
Positive	Multicultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Charter includes a right to access adjustments such as interpreting services.</li> <li>The implementation plan for the Charter aims to address key feedback from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities about ensuring information is accessible and targeted towards different community groups.</li> </ul>
Positive	Impacts on different age groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The implementation of the Charter includes provisions for child victims' views, wishes and circumstances to be considered before a parent or carer is treated as the victim in relation to rights, and child victims to be treated appropriately for their age.</li> <li>Rights to adjustments and accessible information may assist young and older people to access their rights and participate in justice processes.</li> </ul>
Positive	Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Charter introduces a right to access any adjustments required to participate in justice processes.</li> </ul>
Positive	Justice and Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Justice agencies will be obligated to uphold victim rights. Many of these mirror current victim engagement practices, while in some cases, victim</li> </ul>

		<p>rights will extend or adjust certain communication processes with victims.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introducing victim rights may impact on agency resources to provide information, updates and support to victims of crime. This has been considered with the introduction of FTE for key agencies.</li> <li>Engaging with restorative complaints management processes will provide agencies with opportunities to improve practice and engage with victims.</li> <li>The Charter will assist agencies to build on their good practice with victims and continue to engage with victims of crime as cultural reform with victims being central to the justice process.</li> </ul>
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<b>Economic</b>		
<b>Level of impact</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Neutral	ACT Government Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding has been allocated for the implementation of the Charter.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More support for victims may lead to increased productivity if victims recover more rapidly and fully.</li> <li>The Charter introduces rights which require justice agencies to spend additional time attending to victims' needs. While this engagement may impact on agency resources, it is expected to benefit overall efficiencies in justice processes, as expectations are clearer for victims and they receive more information.</li> </ul>
Positive	Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ACT will be the first jurisdiction to introduce comprehensive victim rights with a strong framework in relation to obligations and accountability, and complaints processing.</li> </ul>
Positive	Employment and labour force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resourcing approved for implementing the Charter includes ongoing key workers in justice agencies that support victims of crime.</li> <li>The Charter may assist victims to return to employment if they have taken leave as a result of a crime, and to retain employment more effectively through more supported recoveries.</li> </ul>
Neutral	Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The introduction of the Charter is likely to encourage agencies to continue to develop skills in working with victims of crime.</li> </ul>
Positive	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Charter includes provisions to support child victims of crimes, which may assist young people in returning to and engaging more fully in education.</li> </ul>

<b>Environmental</b>	Nil
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