

24 February 2025

The Proper Officer  
Department of Communities and Justice  
By email: [policy@dcj.nsw.gov.au](mailto:policy@dcj.nsw.gov.au)

### **Establishing an Independent Victims Commissioner: Discussion Paper**

Dear Madam / Sir,

Kingsford Legal Centre (KLC) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Establishing an Independent Victims Commissioner: Discussion Paper ('Discussion Paper'). We consent to this feedback being published.

### **About Kingsford Legal Centre**

Kingsford Legal Centre is a community legal centre, providing free legal advice, casework and community legal education to people in south-east Sydney since 1981. As well as our generalist legal service, we run a state-wide Sexual Harassment & Discrimination Legal Clinic and a state-wide Employment Rights Legal Service, which is delivered collaboratively with Redfern Legal Centre and the Inner City Legal Centre. KLC also runs a specialist Health Justice Partnership with the Prince of Wales Hospital and Eastern Suburbs Mental Health Service.

We have a significant experience providing legal help to victim-survivors of crime. In 2024 our service helped 91 clients in relation to the Victims Services Scheme, providing 97 instances of legal advice, performing 10 legal tasks, and representing clients in 40 cases.

KLC is part of the UNSW Sydney Faculty of Law & Justice and provides clinical legal education to over 600 UNSW law students every year. We provide students with an experiential learning opportunity across all KLC's work, including our work assisting victim-survivors of crime.

### **Support for the establishment of an Independent Victims Commissioner**

We have had the benefit of reading Women's Legal Service NSW's ('WLS NSW') submission on Establishing a NSW Independent Commissioner Victims Rights. We fully endorse WLS NSW's recommendations.

We strongly support the creation of an Independent Commissioner who is able to consult and amplify the voices of people with lived experience of violence, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples, people living with disabilities and people with intersectional life experience. This is an important opportunity to ensure that the experience of victim-survivors is considered across the justice system and to ensure better outcomes for victim-survivors in those systems. The role provides an important opportunity to advocate around how systems can be improved and how NSW can ensure better justice outcomes for victim-survivors. It goes without saying that for this work to be effective it has to be properly resourced and we echo those recommendations from WLS in this regard.

Please let us know if you have any questions about this submission. You can reach us at [legal@unsw.edu.au](mailto:legal@unsw.edu.au).

Yours faithfully,  
KINGSFORD LEGAL CENTRE



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