

I write in response specifically to item 11 of the Issues Paper 1. *What issues arise from the current regime of records that result in the automatic barring of a person from working with children?*

While I support measures to reduce the possibility of child abuse, I ask you to consider the following should one of your recommendations be to continue this current regime.

The case I refer to is of a 56 year old who is precluded from working or volunteering in many organisations due to an incident which occurred when he was eighteen. His police record shows a guilty conviction with a penalty of a twenty dollar fine. This has had a significant impact on his social well-being and mental health, not to mention the possible economic ramifications.

I suggest the use of discretion to judge each person to determine the relevance of the criminal record to the current situation, using length of time since the offence +/- severity of the offence as determinants.

I expect that there are other people with police records that would be precluded from working with children, yet would be at no risk to them, should part of this royal commission recommend blanket criminal history checks that preclude people with certain criminal convictions.