

OFFICIAL



South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance
C/O SHINE SA, 64C Woodville Rd
Woodville South SA 5011
On Kaurua land
E: info@saraa.org.au

 [sarainbowadvocacyalliance](https://www.facebook.com/sarainbowadvocacyalliance) | saraa.org.au

MEDIA RELEASE - Rebecca Galdies - 0490 954 467

The South Australian Rainbow Advocacy Alliance (SARAA) congratulates the New South Wales government on its decision to begin publicly debating a bill to prohibit change and suppression practices, more commonly known as “conversion practices”. (Conversion Practices Ban Bill 2024).

Several elements of the legislation tabled on Wednesday are excellent and we recognise that it is substantively aligned with the survivor-led model of legislation adopted in Victoria and Aotearoa New Zealand.

We applaud the acknowledgement of a need for a civil scheme, however the current bill’s proposed complaints process places the onus on survivors or their representatives to initiate a complaint and remain engaged throughout an investigation process. This will leave third parties wishing to make a direct report, out in the cold.

While other elements of the civil scheme described in this bill are impressive, this element is very problematic. We know from extensive research here in Australia and overseas, that it is incredibly rare for a survivor to be able to reach the level of mental health, confidence and clarity of mind required to commence such a process - or even to engage sufficiently with a body that might represent them.

In contrast, Victoria’s model allows third parties to make reports – of both practices and observed risk – to the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC), with VEOHRC then taking responsibility for the next steps.

SARAA is exactly the kind of trusted third party that must be allowed to make reports directly to a civil scheme.

We welcome the New South Wales government’s decision to address this very important matter and would like to see the South Australian government get on with opening up a public consultation process to allow the opportunity for legislators to hear directly from survivors of conversion practices, experts, and researchers.

We have made it very clear to the current government that effective legislation on this matter should be in place before the end of 2024. To view the Reporting function of Victoria’s world-leading Change and Suppression Practices Civil Response Scheme, go to: <https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au/change-or-suppression-practices/reporting-practices/>