

Thanks for helping with my campaign to urge the government to promote restorative justice. Please don't forget to include your name and address at the bottom of the email.

You can easily obtain the name and email address of your MP by asking [Grok](#) or [ChatGPT](#). Please also email your state Attorney General - adapting the letter below to ask your state to take action.

DRAFT LETTER

Subject: Please support the ALRC recommendation to expand restorative justice options for sexual assault cases

Dear [MP's Name],

I am writing as one of your constituents to ask you to support Recommendation 58–60 of the Australian Law Reform Commission's Final Report *Safe, Informed, Supported: Reforming Justice Responses to Sexual Violence* (ALRC Report 143, tabled March 2025).

The current criminal justice system is failing in many sexual assault cases involving young people in social situations where alcohol is involved and consent is unclear or disputed. Young women often choose not to report these incidents to police because they do not see what happened as a clear-cut criminal matter, they do not want the other person—often a friend or acquaintance—sent to prison, and they fear not being believed and having to relive the event in court. Juries are frequently reluctant to convict when the evidence is limited to his and her version of events.

As a result, the overwhelming majority of these incidents go unreported, unprosecuted, and without any meaningful resolution or accountability. Only 5-10% of the reported cases result in conviction leading to a huge waste of taxpayer's money – likely to be hundreds of millions annually across police time, forensics, DPP prosecutions, and court hearings.

I was pleased to see the ALRC report recommending restorative justice which offers a practical alternative in these situations. It allows the person who feels harmed to speak directly about what happened and its effects, without having to go through police statements or a courtroom. The other party is required to attend voluntarily, listen, and engage in a facilitated discussion about what took place and what should happen next. This approach can lead to clearer understanding, genuine accountability, and steps to repair harm or prevent recurrence—outcomes the criminal courts rarely achieve in these low-conviction, contested cases.

The ALRC recommends removing the current barriers that require a prior conviction or full admission of guilt before restorative justice can be used. Lifting those restrictions would open this pathway to far more people who currently have no workable option. Specialist restorative justice programs, properly funded and run with safety safeguards, could deliver real accountability and resolution where the traditional system fails.

I therefore ask you to urge the Government to fund and implement restorative justice programs for sexual violence cases that prioritise voluntary participation.

Thank you for your time. I would value a reply setting out your position on these recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Full Name/address]