

Submission
No 18

**INQUIRY INTO CRIMES (APPEAL AND REVIEW)
AMENDMENT (DOUBLE JEOPARDY) BILL 2019**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 30 June 2019

Partially
Confidential

To whom it may concern,

I'm a Gamilaraay woman working in gendered violence prevention and response. The Bowraville families affected are my family — and the impact of this last twenty nine years is being felt across generations.

It is not just the violence that took our loved ones from us that creates this trauma. It is the violence of how we have now been dealt with by whole systems. Minimised. Patronised. Subjected to technicalities that, while protecting people from endless re-prosecution, in the wake of what has happened to us seem like absurd, cruel excuses.

It is a lack of clarity in the double-jeopardy laws, not their protection of accused persons, that we oppose. We are families who were let down by institutionally racist investigations, and are now let down by a court system that won't rectify the consequences of that. We have unwillingly been passed through an endless series of institutional gaps. We cannot allow other families to also be caught up in badly-drafted exceptions and by courts who are cornered by interpretative principles in response.

Talking about the truth and acknowledging that what happened to us in these systems was just step one. We have received and heard the sympathy of countless politicians, judges and investigators. What we need is action. Our communities are drowning in sympathy. We need clarity. We need to clarify these standards — for everyone.

Yours sincerely,