



PANSW
Police Association of NSW

**Media
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Reform to evidence law is a victory for common sense

This week's introduction of legislation by Attorney-General Mark Speakman to allow greater admissibility of tendency evidence in criminal proceedings for child sexual offences has been applauded by the Police Association of New South Wales (PANSW).

"Reform to this law is long overdue and is a victory for common sense," said Tony King, PANSW President.

"The Association has advocated for changes to this area of law and the rules surrounding tendency and coincidence evidence since before 2015, and again actively campaigned for reforms to be made during the State election period last year.

"We are glad that recommendations for change made by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses into Child Sexual Abuse have been a catalyst for taking this step, and we agree with the Attorney-General that this will be a significant reform and that the system has been too skewed by excluding relevant evidence," said Tony King.

"For too long the pendulum has swung in favour of the accused. This legislation is balancing that inequality.

"Juries need to have access to the whole story to get to the truth of a matter and for victims not to be let down by the legal system.

"This is a win for our communities and common sense. We call on all political parties to pass this legislation unamended as a priority".

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