



Our reference: GZC
Contact: Gabrielle Canny
Telephone:
Your reference: Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Date: 12 July 2018

A 159 Gawler Place
ADELAIDE SA 5000
www.lsc.sa.gov.au
Postal Address:
GPO Box 1718
ADELAIDE SA 5001
DX 104
T (08) 8111 5596
F (08) 8111 5594
TTY 133 677 then ask for 1300 366 424
Legal Help Line 1300 366 424

Dr Sean Turner
Acting Committee Secretary
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
The Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT

Legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Dr Turner,

Inquiry into the Unexplained Wealth Legislation Amendment Bill

I refer to your email of 29 June 2018.

The Legal Services Commission of South Australia is this State's largest criminal defence agency. In the previous financial year, we made 11,963 grants of legal aid in criminal law matters. Part of the Legal Services Commission's role is to ensure that there is appropriate access to justice for those facing criminal charges.

Generally speaking the Legal Services Commission has no objection to a national scheme for a single unexplained wealth order as such schemes can reduce the cost of justice with regard to court hearings. However, it is a fundamental right of the defendant to be heard in court proceedings which may adversely affect him or her. The Commission submits that the application for the single order should always take place in the Australian jurisdiction of greatest convenience for the defendant.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Gabrielle Z Canny
Director