

**COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC
AND FAMILY VIOLENCE**

*Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950
Section 5(1)(d)*

STATEMENT OF JACELYN PARSONS

Name of Witness:	JACELYN PARSONS
Date of birth:	[REDACTED]
Current address:	[REDACTED]
Occupation:	Social Worker – Victim of Crime Program WWILD Sexual Violence Prevention Association
Contact details (phone/email):	[REDACTED]
Statement taken by:	Julie Aylward

I, Jacelyn Parsons, make oath and state as follows:

1. I am a Social Worker with the Victim of Crime Program at WWILD Sexual Violence Prevention Association on behalf of Women with Intellectual, Cognitive and Learning Disabilities (WWILD).
2. WWILD has been operating since 1998 supporting young people and adults with intellectual disabilities who have experienced violence, abuse and exploitation, with a particular focus of sexual violence and domestic and family violence.
3. WWILD has two main programs funded by the Department of Justice and Attorney General; the Sexual Assault Service and the Victim of Crime – Disability Training Program. The Sexual Assault Service is accessible for people of all genders with an intellectual disability who have experienced sexual violence (SV) or are at significant risk of experiencing SV, providing specialist trauma recovery counselling and community education programs. Our Victims of Crime - Disability Training Program provides specialist counselling to people with intellectual disability who have been victims of crime across

three locations in Greater Brisbane, outreach case management across Greater Brisbane, state-wide information, advice and referral, and state-wide community education and professional training. WWILD is currently subcontracted by Micah Projects to provide counselling and support to people with intellectual disability who are affected by the Disability Royal Commission. WWILD also has several projects at the moment, including a Department of Social Services funded Community-Based Violence Against Women Prevention Project, called Listen Up!

- 4. WWILD has participated in systematic advocacy to address the issues contributing to the overrepresentation of people with intellectual disabilities as victims of SV, DFV and other crimes, including representation in the Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce. We have highlighted the barriers faced by people with intellectual disability in reporting crimes to the police and how the justice system often fails to hold perpetrators accountable. Many of these issues stem from pervasive negative community attitudes and stereotypes about this cohort. WWILD advocates strongly for the improvement of mainstream service responses to better support this cohort to recover from abuse and neglect

- 5. In June 2022 WWILD forwarded a submission to the Commission of Inquiry. The evidence that I wish to give to the Commission is outlined in this submission.

A copy of the submission to the Commission from WWILD is attached as Annexure A.

OATHS ACT 1867 (DECLARATION)

I Jackie Parsons do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

- (1) This written statement by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief: and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything I know to be false.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1867*.

