

17 June 2020

Ms Joanne Stampalia
Executive Director
Court and Tribunal Services
Department of Justice
Level 17, 26 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

By email: elisha.lafontaine@justice.wa.gov.au

Dear Ms Stampalia

PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY IN JURY SERVICE DISCUSSION PAPER

Thank you for your letter dated 26 March 2020 inviting the Law Society of Western Australia to provide feedback in relation to the above and for the extension of time to provide that feedback by 29 May 2020.

The Law Society supports making amendments to the *Juries Act 1957* (WA) similar to the amendments made to the *Juries Act 1976* (ACT) in 2018 to remove legislative barriers preventing people with a disability from progressing past the summoning stage of the jury selection process.

The Law Society considers that people with a disability who are able to participate in jury service should have the opportunity to do so and juries should more accurately reflect the community they represent. The Law Society supports reasonable adjustments and accommodations that allow people with a disability to serve on juries and more fully engage with their civic responsibilities.

If you wish to discuss the above or if you have any queries please contact Mary Woodford, General Manager Advocacy on 9324 8646 or mwoodford@lawsocietywa.asn.au

Yours sincerely



Nicholas van Hattem
President