



Villamanta

DISABILITY RIGHTS LEGAL SERVICE

20 June 2023

Attorney General of Victoria
The Hon. Jaclyn Symes MLC
Level 26, 121 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE Vic 3000
By email: Jaclyn.symes@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Attorney-General

Gag laws and the VCAT Act

We refer to the ABC report on guardianship and administration which aired on 19 June 2023, specifically the legislation which prevents people with disability from speaking about their experiences.

We refer also to the [position statement](#) of the Public Advocate of 6 April 2023 calling for the Victorian government to amend the legislation which prevents people speaking out.

We note that this issue was initially raised with your office on 1 February 2022 by advocate Uli Cartwright whose documentary *Life is a Battlefield* was removed from the SBS website due to these gag provisions.

The undersigned organisations also call for the Victorian government to amend the Schedule 1 of the *Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 1998* so that Victorians with a disability have equal rights to speak about their life and experience.

Yours sincerely

Annie Nash
Chief Executive Officer

Naomi Anderson
Legal Practice Manager

Endorsed by:

