



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Our ref: CLC/RHrg:1944884

26 June 2020

Ms Margery Nicoll
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Law Council of Australia
GPO Box 1989
Canberra ACT 2601

By email: myles.gillard@lawcouncil.asn.au

Dear Ms Nicoll,

Review of Law Council's Policy Statement on a Commonwealth Criminal Cases Review Commission

Thank you for seeking the Law Society's feedback on whether a review of the Law Council's Policy Statement on a Commonwealth Criminal Cases Review Commission is necessary, and the extent to which it should advocate the reforms proposed by the Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG.

The Law Society's Criminal Law Committee reviewed the Law Council's Policy Statement and Mr Kirby's editorial in the *Criminal Law Journal* (Volume 43 Part 5) 'A New Right of Appeal as a Response to Wrongful Convictions: Is It Enough?', at its June 2020 meeting.

The Law Society considers that a review of the Law Council's Policy Statement may be timely, and the reforms proposed by Mr Kirby are worthy of consideration. The findings and recommendations of the NSW Law Reform Commission, in its 2014 report on Criminal Appeals, may also be considered in this regard.

The Law Society contact for this matter is Rachel Geare, Senior Policy Lawyer, who can be reached on (02) 9926 0310 or at rachel.geare@lawsociety.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Harvey
President