



# Robyn Preston MP

## Member for Hawkesbury

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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20 October 2020

### **MORE COURT PROTECTIONS FOR ‘REVENGE PORN’ VICTIMS**

Victims of intimate image abuse will have the same court protections as other sexual assault complainants while judicial officers will have greater powers to order images and recordings be destroyed, under legislation introduced in NSW Parliament this week.

Member for Hawkesbury Robyn Preston MP said the proposed *Criminal Procedure Act 1986* reforms acknowledge the seriousness of these types of offences and how distressing they are for victims.

“These reforms are aimed at helping to reduce the trauma of the court process that can often involve lengthy questioning about intimate details of the offence,” Ms. Preston said.

The proposed reforms mean victims can give evidence remotely and in a closed court, access a support person, have their identity protected from publication, and avoid cross-examination by an unrepresented accused personally.

“It is vital victims and the Hawkesbury community understand that if they report intimate image abuse that they will be appropriately supported in court,” Ms. Preston said.

The proposed reforms also allow the court to order an offender to remove, retract, delete or destroy an intimate image when found guilty of threatening to distribute it without consent.

“What happens to intimate images can understandably cause ongoing fear for victims, so our Bill seeks to address that anxiety too, so they can have peace of mind,” Ms. Preston said.

Today’s Bill reinforces the Government’s commitment to addressing this vile form of intimate abuse and follows its implementation of the *Crimes Amendment (Intimate Images) Act 2017*.

“Unfortunately, the rapid advent of technology has facilitated a rise in this type of criminal behaviour – with hundreds of charges having been laid in the last couple of years,” Ms. Preston said.

“These statistics show why it is crucial that our justice response keeps pace with technology.”

[Research by the e-Safety Commissioner indicates](#) 11 per cent of Australian adults have experienced image-based abuse. According to the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, there were 296 charges for intimate image offences between July 2018 and June 2019, while 420 charges have been laid between July 2019 and June this year.

Visit the [NSW Parliament website](#) for further details on the Bill.

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