

# KEY AMENDMENTS TO THE Criminal Procedure Code and Evidence Act

## VIDEO-RECORDING OF INTERVIEWS (VRI)

1. Assists the court to try cases more effectively:
  - Court can take into account interviewee's demeanour
  - Provides objective account of interview
2. **Phased implementation** due to significant investment of resources.
3. Later phases: Video-recorded statements of vulnerable victims, e.g. victims of serious sexual offences
  - Used in place of oral evidence-in-chief
  - **Minimises trauma** of repeatedly recounting ordeal



## ENHANCING PROTECTION FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL OFFENCES OR CHILD ABUSE

1. Suite of measures to **enhance protection for persons who report sexual or child abuse**. For example:
  - Complainant's identity cannot be published once police report is lodged
  - Certain witnesses allowed to testify behind a physical screen
  - Complainants will give testimony behind closed doors
  - Defence not allowed to ask certain questions without court permission

**Reduces the stress** that complainants face when participating in the criminal process.



## FRAMEWORK FOR DEFERRED PROSECUTION AGREEMENTS (DPAs)

1. All DPAs will require High Court approval. Court must be satisfied that
  - The DPA is in the **interests of justice**
  - Terms are **fair, reasonable and proportionate**DPA must also be published, after the Court approves it.
2. Mechanism allows for **corporate reform**.

**In appropriate cases, using a DPA can:**

  - Facilitate **more effective prosecution of individuals** who are truly culpable
  - **Leave society better off** than convicting faceless corporate entity



## EXPAND ELIGIBILITY FOR COMMUNITY SENTENCES

1. Expand eligibility criteria in a controlled manner
  - **More offenders can benefit from rehabilitative opportunities**
2. Offenders who have served short sentences of imprisonment or previous terms of Reformative Training will be eligible.
3. List of more serious offences eligible for Mandatory Treatment Orders ("MTOs") will be prescribed.
4. Flexibility of MTOs will be enhanced to allow IMH to deliver more effective treatment programmes.
5. Courts given power to impose suspended imprisonment sentence together with Community Sentence
  - **Encourages compliance** with Community Sentences

