



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



THE SENATE

PROOF

BILLS

**Crimes Legislation Amendment
(Sexual Crimes Against Children and
Community Protection Measures) Bill 2019**

In Committee

SPEECH

Monday, 15 June 2020

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

SPEECH

Date Monday, 15 June 2020	Source Senate
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Questioner	Responder
Speaker McKim, Sen Nicholas	Question No.

Senator McKIM (Tasmania—Deputy Leader of the Australian Greens in the Senate) (19:32): I will make the obvious point: there are secret trials going on in this country right now that are not in the public interest. Bernard Collaery has been charged by the Commonwealth DPP when it is clearly not in the public interest that he be charged. It is a disgrace that he was charged and that charge—authorised, recommended by the DPP and signed off by the Attorney-General—is an absolute disgrace. It should not be happening. It clearly runs counter to the public interest, but it is still happening. So when you say that the prosecution would not be proceeded with because it is not in the public interest, that gives me no confidence whatsoever, because prosecutions happen in this country when they are not in the public interest, Minister, and that is an unarguable statement of fact. I tender, as exhibit A, the charges of Mr Collaery, who bravely and patriotically acted in one of the most shameful episodes in this country's recent history, which was the illegal bugging of the Timor-Leste government by Australian security agencies. So I do want to say to you, Minister, that I understand that's the only argument you've got—to say that the prosecution would not proceed in the public interest—but it gives no comfort to the Australian Greens whatsoever.