

# **Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025**

## **Explanatory Notes**

### **FOR**

### **Amendments to be moved during consideration in detail by The Honourable Di Farmer MP – Shadow Minister for Youth Justice**

#### **Short title**

The short title of the Bill is the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025.

#### **Policy objectives and the reasons for them**

The amendments seek to ensure openness and transparency in government processes, in addition to the justice system in Queensland.

Queenslanders have a right to know how their government, their elected officials are basing their decision upon.

Queenslanders have a right to know if victim numbers are falling and also what advice the elected government of the day is relying upon to create new laws.

#### Victim Numbers

When Premier Crisafulli introduced the previous *Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024* the Premier said, “*this will be a government that has at its focus a safer community and fewer victims of crime*”.

During the introduction of the current Bill, the *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025*, the Premier said, “... *reduce the number of victims in our community*...”.

During the leaders debate during the 2024 General Election, the then Leader of the Opposition, now Premier (Premier Crisafulli) answered “*you bet*” to a question from a respected Nine Network journalist who asked “*Opposition Leader, your biggest campaign promise is that*

*crime will be lower under the LNP, and there will be fewer victims year on year. If you're elected, if you fail to do that, will you resign as Premier?"*

Premier Crisafulli is therefore on the record saying that the Premier will resign if there are not fewer victims year on year.

Premier Crisafulli during the 2024 General Election used Australian Bureau of Statistics data which is published on a yearly basis, based on information and data provided by each jurisdiction, including by the Queensland Police Service.

To ensure that Queenslanders are continually informed in respect of victim numbers and offences in Queensland the proposed amendment will enshrine in law the requirement for the Queensland Police Service to provide the monthly Queensland victim numbers and offences to the Speaker of the Parliament for tabling in the Queensland Parliament on a monthly basis.

The data should be provided in the same format which is provided to the ABS on a yearly basis.

### Independent Review

It is important that any new laws passed by the Queensland Parliament are continually monitored and reviewed. This is critical for the *Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024* and indeed the *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025*, as these proposed laws, and previously passed laws are significant and important to Queenslanders.

In addition, many stakeholders during the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's considerations of both the previous and current bill raised issues with the legislation and the importance that they be reviewed at an appropriate time.

As such an amendment is required to ensure that the *Making Queensland Safer Act 2024* and the proposed *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Act 2025* laws, if they are passed, are reviewed within 18 months of commencement.

The review will need to be undertaken by an independent and appropriately qualified person.

To ensure that there is no interference with the outcomes of the report, within one month of the review's finalisation, a report about the outcomes of the review must be provided to the Speaker of the Legislative of the Queensland Parliament to be tabled within three sitting days of receiving it.

### Expert Legal Panel

The Crisafulli LNP Government established an Expert Legal Panel which is supported by the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support to provide "*advice and recommendations to the Queensland Government on which offences Adult Time, Adult Crime would apply under the Making Queensland Safer Laws*".<sup>1</sup> The panel consists of five individuals with varying degrees of expertise in a variety of fields.

The Queensland Opposition shares the concerns of many stakeholders, including frontline organisations and members of the legal profession, that the advice that the LNP Crisafulli

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.youthjustice.qld.gov.au/our-department/who-we-are/our-commitments>

Government has relied upon to add twenty new offences to the Crisafulli LNP Government's Adult Crime, Adult Time policy is not known.

It has been kept secret from Queenslanders.

The Director-General of the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support said in the public hearing:

*"The government set up the Expert Legal Panel. They announced it. The panel did its work independent of the department. The panel provided its advice to the Minister. The Cabinet considered that advice. The government have made a policy decision. I do not know if I can add any more than that."*<sup>2</sup>

The Director-General of the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support went on to state in reference to the Expert Legal Panel that:

*"They reported expressly to the minister. The minister made decisions. Of course, the department then would have been involved in providing support to the minister around the cabinet submissions and the whole drafting process. Clearly, it is a matter for the minister and it is a policy issue for government."*<sup>3</sup>

To ensure that laws in Queensland work and are robust, they need to be evidenced-based. That is why the Queensland Opposition has called for the Expert Legal Panel advice to be released for some time.

To not release the Expert Legal Panel advice at the start of the committee process is shameful and is disingenuous of acting in good faith and bringing Queenslanders along with the government on the legislative journey.

But to continue to not release the Expert Legal Panel advice after multiple calls by the Queensland Opposition, stakeholders and frontline organisations is a prime example of how the Crisafulli LNP Government is governing in secrecy.

It is time that the Crisafulli LNP Government throws open the curtains on the Expert Legal Panel and let the sunshine in on their Panel's advice.

An amendment is proposed to ensure that existing and new advice produced by the Expert Legal Panel is provided to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament for tabling in the Legislative Assembly, so that all Queenslanders can be apprised of the information that the government is relying upon.

## **Achievement of policy objectives**

To achieve these objectives, amendments are proposed to various clauses as outlined below.

## **Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives**

There are no known alternate ways of achieving the same policy objective.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JJCSC-CD82/MQSACATAB2-9E30/Transcript%20-%2028%20April%202025%20-%20JIC%20-%20Briefing%20-%20Inquiry%20into%20the%20Making%20Queensland%20Safer%20\(Adult%20Crime,%20Adult%20Time\)%20Amendment%20Bill.pdf](https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JJCSC-CD82/MQSACATAB2-9E30/Transcript%20-%2028%20April%202025%20-%20JIC%20-%20Briefing%20-%20Inquiry%20into%20the%20Making%20Queensland%20Safer%20(Adult%20Crime,%20Adult%20Time)%20Amendment%20Bill.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

## Estimated cost for government implementation

There are no cost implications for the amendments as it will be achieved through existing budget arrangements.

## Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The amendments are consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

## Consultation

Consultation has occurred with key stakeholders and also via the Queensland Parliament's parliamentary committee process, which is outlined in the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's report.

## Consistency with legislation of other jurisdictions

The legislation is Queensland specific.

## Notes on provisions

### Part 1 Preliminary

*Amendment 1* amends the *Police Service Administration Act 1990* to require the Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service to provide monthly data in relation to offences committed by adults and offences committed by children to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament for tabling.

The amendment will require the Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service to ensure that the data is compiled in accordance with any requirements of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, including the 'Recorded crime – victims' document published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

*Amendment 2* amends the Bill to require a review of the *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025* (if passed) and also the previous *Making Queensland Safer Act 2024*. The review must be carried out within 18 months after the relevant Act commences by an independent and appropriately qualified person. Within 1 month after finishing the review the Minister must give to the Speaker a report about the outcomes of the review, for tabling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for tabling in the Queensland Parliament within 3 sitting days.

*Amendment 2* also amends the Bill to let the sunshine in and compel any advice previously provided or provided in the future by the Expert Legal Panel to government be made public, via it being provided to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for tabling in the Queensland Parliament within 3 sitting days.

*Amendment 3* amends the long title of the Bill.