QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT
COMMITTEES

Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026

Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

Report No. 29

58th Parliament, April 2026

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Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

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Acknowledgements

The committee acknowledges the assistance provided by the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support and the Queensland Police Service.

[1] For the duration of this Bill inquiry, the Hon Di Farmer MP, Member for Bulimba was a substitute member for Mr Peter Russo MP, Member for Toohey.

[2] For the duration of this Bill inquiry, the Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP, Member for Gaven was a substitute member for Ms Melissa McMahon MP, Member for Macalister.

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Chair's Foreword

This report presents a summary of the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's examination of the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026.

The committee's task was to consider the policy to be achieved by the legislation and the application of fundamental legislative principles – that is, to consider whether the Bill has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals, and to the institution of Parliament. The committee also examined the Bill for compatibility with human rights in accordance with the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

This Bill represents a further step in delivering on the Government's commitment to strengthen community safety by ensuring that serious offending is met with consequences that reflect community expectations. The expansion of Adult Crime, Adult Time provisions, alongside enhanced police powers and the introduction of banning notices in designated business and community precincts, sends a clear message that violent, disorderly, and threatening behaviour will not be tolerated.

I am proud to be part of a Crisafulli Government that is firmly placing the rights and welfare of victims and the broader community at the centre of its approach, recognising that law-abiding Queenslanders deserve to feel safe in their homes, workplaces, and public spaces.

I also wish to place on record my sincere thanks to the regional witnesses who took the time to provide evidence to the Committee. Their willingness to share lived experiences and perspectives from across our communities is invaluable, and it is these voices—often directly impacted by crime and anti-social behaviour—that must continue to inform our work and guide the development of legislation such as this.

On behalf of the committee, I thank the many individuals and organisations who made written submissions on the Bill and appeared at the committee's public hearings in Brisbane, Nambour, Maryborough and Townsville.

I also thank our Parliamentary Service staff, the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support and the Queensland Police Service for their assistance with the committee's work.

I commend this report to the House.

Mr Marty Hunt MP
Chair

Executive Summary

The Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026 (Bill) was introduced to the Legislative Assembly on 3 March 2026 by the Honourable Laura Gerber MP, Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services and was referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee (committee) for consideration.

The objective of the Bill is to make Queensland safer and strengthen the capability of the criminal justice system to hold perpetrators to account. This objective is achieved under the Bill by:

- amending the *Youth Justice Act 1992* to prescribe new Adult Crime, Adult Time offences
- repealing the current Police Drug Diversion Program and introducing a new Illicit Drug Enforcement and Diversion Framework, and
- introducing new and expanded police powers within prescribed Designated Business and Community Precincts.

The committee received and considered the following evidence:

- 188 written submissions from stakeholders
- a written briefing provided by the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support (department) on 10 March 2026
- a public hearing and public briefing in Brisbane on 27 March 2026
- a public hearing in Nambour on 30 March 2026
- a public hearing in Maryborough on 31 March 2026, and
- a public hearing in Townsville on 9 April 2026.

The committee is satisfied that the Bill gives sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and the institution of Parliament as required by the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

The committee found that the Bill is incompatible with human rights as defined in the *Human Rights Act 2019 (*HRA*).* The committee considered that any potential incompatibility with the human rights as expressed in the HRA and as further explained in the statement of compatibility are justified in the circumstances and necessary to achieve the purposes of the Bill.

The committee made 1 recommendation, found at page vii of this report.

Recommendations

The committee recommends that the Bill be passed.

Glossary

ADF	The Alcohol and Drug Foundation
AMAN	The Australian Multicultural Action Network Inc
BAQ	Bar Association of Queensland
Bill	Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026
Committee	Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee
CQID	Central Queensland Indigenous Development
CRC	*United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child*
Criminal Code	*Criminal Code 1899*
DBCP	Designated Business and Community Precincts
department / DYJVS	Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support
Expert Legal Panel Report	The Expert Legal Panel report dated February 2026
FLP	Fundamental Legislative Principle
HRA	*Human Rights Act 2019*
IDEDF	Illicit Drug Enforcement and Diversion Framework
LSA	*Legislative Standards Act 1992*
Minister	The Honourable Laura Gerber MP, Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services
MQS Act	*Making Queensland Safer Act 2024*
MQS Laws	Making Queensland Safer Laws
QLS	Queensland Law Society
QNADA	Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies
PDDP	Police Drug Diversion Program
PIN	Penalty Infringement Notice
PPRA	*Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*
PS Act	*Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*
SNP	Safe Night Precinct
SPE Act	*State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999*

SPER	State Penalty Enforcement Register
UNYQ	United Nations Youth Queensland
Youth Justice Act	*Youth Justice Act 1992*

Overview of the Bill

The Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026 (Bill) was introduced to the Legislative Assembly on 3 March 2026 by the Honourable Laura Gerber MP, Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services (Minister) and referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee (committee) for consideration.

1. Aims of the Bill

The objective of the Bill is to make Queensland safer and strengthen the capability of the criminal justice system to hold perpetrators to account. This objective is achieved under the Bill by:

- amending the *Youth Justice Act 1992* (Youth Justice Act) to prescribe new Adult Crime, Adult Time offences
- repealing the current Police Drug Diversion Program (PDDP) and introducing a new Illicit Drug Enforcement and Diversion Framework (IDEDF), and
- introducing new and expanded police powers within prescribed Designated Business and Community Precincts (DBCPs).

During the Introduction Speech, the Minister explained:

> *This bill strengthens community safety in three strong and decisive ways. First, it strengthens our tough Adult Crime, Adult Time laws, expanding the scope by 12 serious offences and ensuring that serious crimes attract serious consequences. Second, it scraps Labor's failed drug diversion policy which saw thousands of repeat drug offenders walk away without facing consequences for their actions. Third, it promotes community safety in designated business and community precincts, giving our police the tools they need to restore safety to our shopping centres, community hubs and business districts.*[3]

2. Inquiry process

The committee received and considered the following evidence:

- 188 written submissions from stakeholders
- a written briefing provided by the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support (department) on 10 March 2026
- a public hearing and public briefing in Brisbane on 27 March 2026
- a public hearing in Nambour on 30 March 2026
- a public hearing in Maryborough on 31 March 2026, and
- a public hearing in Townsville on 9 April 2026.

[3] Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceedings, 3 March 2026, pp 368-9.

Included in the written submissions was a form submission provided by 201 people supporting stronger laws on drugs and antisocial behaviour. These submitters specifically called for Southport CBD to be a designated DBCP.[4]

3. Legislative compliance

The committee's deliberations included assessing whether the Bill complies with the requirements for legislation as contained in the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, the *Legislative Standards Act 1992* (LSA),[5] and the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HRA).[6]

3.1. Fundamental Legislative Principles

Assessment of the Bill's compliance with the LSA identified a number of potential issues of fundamental legislative principles which are discussed in the report below:

- Whether there is sufficient regard for rights and liberties of individuals (including children)
- Whether the consequences of the legislation are relevant and proportionate
- Whether administrative power is sufficiently defined, and
- Whether it is consistent with the principles of natural justice?

The LSA requires that explanatory notes are circulated when the Bill is tabled that set out the information required to understand the policy objectives of the Bill and must examine the Bill's consistency with fundamental legislative principles.[7]

Committee comment

The committee's assessment of the Bill's compliance with potential issues of fundamental legislative principle under the LSA is set out in more detail in the report below.

The committee is satisfied that the explanatory notes contain the information required by Part 4 of the LSA, including a sufficient level of background information and commentary to facilitate understanding of the objectives and purpose of the Bill.

3.2. Human rights compliance

Assessment of the Bill's compatibility with the HRA identified issues with a number of human rights which are analysed further in the report below:

- Right to recognition and equality before the law (section 15(2))

4 See submission 178 – Form A or variation of Form A.
5 *Legislative Standards Act 1992* (LSA).
6 *Human Rights Act 2019* (HRA).

- Right to equal protection of the law without discrimination (section 15(3))
- Right to equal and effective protection against discrimination (section 15(4))
- Right to protection from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (section 17)
- Right of children to protection in their best interest (section 26(2))
- Right to liberty and security of person (section 29(1))
- Right to humane treatment when deprived of liberty (section 30).[8]

A statement of compatibility was tabled with the introduction of the Bill as required by section 38 of the HRA. The statement contained a sufficient level of information to facilitate understanding of the Bill in relation to its compatibility with human rights in accordance with the HRA.

The committee found that the Bill is not compatible with human rights as defined in the HRA as acknowledged in the statement of compatibility.[9] However, the committee considers this incompatibility is justified in the circumstances and the Bill does not require an override declaration pursuant to section 43 of the HRA given that the information contained in the statement about exceptional circumstances tabled with the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024 (being the parent legislation to the Adult Crime, Adult Time, aspects of the current Bill) is an adequate basis for the HRA to be overridden.

The committee's consideration of these issues is discussed further below.

Committee comment

The committee found that the statement of compatibility contained a sufficient level of information to facilitate understanding of the Bill in relation to its compatibility with human rights.

The committee considered that any potential incompatibility with the human rights as expressed in the HRA and as further explained in the statement of compatibility is justified in the circumstances and necessary to achieve the purposes of the Bill.

4. Should the Bill be passed?

The committee is required to determine whether or not to recommend that the Bill be passed.

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the Bill be passed.

[8] Statement of compatibility, p 5.
[9] Statement of compatibility, pp 1, 2 and 19.

Examination of the Bill

This section discusses key themes raised during the committee's examination of the Bill. It is limited to those matters which formed the substantive body of evidence received by the committee and does not consider every issue raised by stakeholders.

5. Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time

5.1. Context

This part of the Bill which expands the Adult Crime, Adult Time sentencing scheme represents the fourth piece of legislation introduced as part the Government's Making Queensland Safer Laws (MQS Laws).

Appendix A sets out a summary of the previous legislation introduced by the Government that make up the MQS Laws.

5.2. Outline of new Adult Crime, Adult Time offences

The Bill proposes to insert the following new offences, as determined by the Expert Legal Panel,[10] into section 175A of the Youth Justice Act as part of the next stage of offences to which the Adult Crime, Adult Time sentencing regime applies:[11]

Criminal Code	Name of provision
Section 61(1)	Riot, if the circumstance stated in paragraph (a) of the penalty for section 61(1) applies (offender causes grievous bodily harm to a person, causes an explosive substance to explode, or destroys or starts to destroy a building, vehicle or machinery
Section 210	Indecent treatment of a child, if the circumstance stated in subsection (3) (child is under the age of 12 years) or (4A) (child is a person with an impairment of the mind) applies
Section 216	Abuse of persons with an impairment of the mind
Section 309	Conspiring to murder
Section 311	Aiding suicide

[10] The Expert Legal Panel was appointed by the Queensland Government following the passage of the first tranche of the MQS Laws to provide advice on further reforms to Queensland's youth justice system relevant to the Adult Crime, Adult Time sentencing scheme.

[11] Bill, cl 5 (amend s 175A, Youth Justice Act).

Section 315	Disabling in order to commit indictable offence
Section 315A	Choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting
Section 316	Stupefying in order to commit indictable offence
Section 319	Endangering the safety of a person in a vehicle with intent
Section 322	Administering poison with intent to harm, if the circumstance stated in paragraph (a) of the penalty for the section applies (the poison or other noxious thing endangers the life of, or does grievous bodily harm to the person)
Section 339	Assaults occasioning bodily harm, if the circumstance stated in subsection (2) (offender publishes material on a social media platform or an online social network) or (3) (offender is or pretends to be armed with any dangerous or offensive weapon or instrument or is in company) applies
Section 359E	Unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse
Various	General attempt, conspiracy to commit, and accessory after the fact offences under the Criminal Code,[12] as well as the standalone offence of attempted robbery simpliciter.[13]

These changes will have the effect of making youth offenders liable to the same penalties as adults for the relevant offences.[14] A list of the existing maximum penalties for youth offenders and the new minimum, mandatory and maximum penalties for the offences prescribed in the Bill is set out **Appendix B**.[15]

The Bill proposes to expand the Adult Crime, Adult Time scheme to include general attempts and conspiracies to commit, and accessories after the fact, to a scheme offence,[16] as well as the standalone offence of attempted robbery simpliciter.[17] The

[12] Sections 535, 541, 542 and 544 of the Criminal Code.
[13] Statement of compatibility, p 2; section 412 of the Criminal Code.
[14] Explanatory notes, p 1.
[15] Department, written briefing, 8 April 2025, Attachment 1.
[16] See sections 535, 541, 542 and 544 of the Criminal Code.
[17] Bill, cl 56 (Youth Justice Act, amends s 175A); explanatory notes, p 2. See section 412 of the Criminal Code. At present, section 412 is a scheme offence only if the offender is armed with a dangerous weapon or is in company, or is armed with a dangerous weapon and wounds a person with it.

explanatory notes state that these are included because unsuccessful attempts can still be distressing for victims.[18]

The Expert Legal Panel was appointed on 12 February 2025 by the Queensland Government following the passage of the first tranche of the MQS Laws to provide advice on further reforms to Queensland's youth justice system relevant to Adult Crime, Adult Time sentencing scheme. The Expert Legal Panel report dated February 2026 was publicly released by the Minister on the Queensland Government publications website on 27 March 2026 (Expert Legal Panel Report).

5.3. Effect of prescribing offences in section 175A of the Youth Justice Act

Section 175A of the Youth Justice Act sets out the sentencing orders applicable to young offenders in relation to prescribed significant offences to which adult penalties apply.

The amendments under the Bill operate in the same manner as the earlier tranches of Adult Crime, Adult Time offences by removing constraints upon courts in the sentencing of young offenders who commit serious crimes, particularly if the court is constituted by a judge.[19]

Under this provision, if a court is sentencing a child for one of the offences in section 175A, the court may order that the child be placed on probation for a period not longer than three years or detained for a period not more than the maximum penalty that an adult convicted of the offence could be ordered to serve (capped at three years if dealt with by a magistrate). This provision has the effect of increasing the maximum periods of probation and detention orders that could previously be imposed for these offences so that they align with the sentences that can be imposed on adults committing such offences.[20]

For some of the new offences, the maximum penalty for a child will increase to life detention. For those offences, if a child is sentenced to life, they will be liable to the same 15-year mandatory minimum non-parole period that applies to an adult.[21]

5.4. Continuation of existing legislative protections under the Youth Justice Act

The following existing legislative protections continue to be applicable under the Youth Justice Act:

- The court can still make a conditional release order under section 220 of the Youth Justice Act, even where a mandatory sentence applies.

[18] Explanatory notes, p 1.
[19] Youth Justice Act, s 175A(2).
[20] Explanatory notes, p 2.
[21] Explanatory notes, p 3.

- A court sentencing a child for one of the offences will apply the sentencing considerations under section 150 of the Youth Justice Act, and in sections 150A and 150B if the child is or has been declared a serious repeat offender.

- Sections 183 (Recording of conviction) and 184 (Considerations whether or not to record conviction) of the Youth Justice Act continue to apply.

- The court can still sentence the youth offender who commits an Adult Crime, Adult Time offence to a sentence order under section 175 of the Youth Justice Act, with the exception of a restorative justice order under sections 175(1)(da) or (1)(db) as this sentencing order is not available for adults. However, a youth and victim can still participate in restorative justice conferencing pre-sentence, having regard to the nature of the offence, the harm suffered by anyone because of the offence and whether the interests of the victim, community and the youth would be served by having the offence dealt with under a restorative justice process.

- Before a court can impose a period of detention for one of the offences, a pre-sentence report must still be ordered and considered pursuant to section 207 of the Youth Justice Act.

- Where a child is sentenced to detention, the court must order that the child be released from detention after serving whatever period of detention that the court considers appropriate. This means that the requirement in section 227 of the Youth Justice Act that the child must serve 70% of the detention, unless the court orders they be released after serving 50% or more of the detention, does not apply. Rather, for consistency with sentencing of adults, the court has discretion as to the release date.

- The *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* (PS Act), including the Serious Violent Offence scheme and indefinite sentence provisions under Parts 9A and 10, does not apply when sentencing a child for one of the offences (other than by express reference – for example, PS Act provisions about victim impact statements apply – see section 256A Youth Justice Act).

- Where a Children's Court magistrate sentences a child for one of these offences, the order can still be subject to a sentence review under section 118 of the Youth Justice Act.[22]

5.5. Adult Crime, Adult Time type sentencing regimes in other Australian jurisdictions

In its written briefing, the department explained:

[22] Explanatory notes, p 3.

- that the Adult Crime, Adult Time sentencing regime is unique to Queensland and is not based on the laws of any other jurisdiction
- how serious children's indictable offences are dealt with in New South Wales, and
- that Victoria has enacted similar laws referred to as 'Adult Time for Violent Crime' since Queensland introduced its Adult Crime, Adult Time laws.[23]

5.6. Stakeholder submissions

Stakeholder views on the additional offences to be added to the Adult Crime, Adult Time regime under the Bill were mixed, with submitters both supporting[24] and opposing the proposals in this section of the Bill.[25] Additionally, there were submitters who conditionally supported the proposals, for example, where there are complementary measures for rehabilitation and victim support.[26]

Central Queensland Indigenous Development (CQID) recognised the serious impacts that youth offending can have on victims, families and communities, however submitted that 'improving community safety requires responses that reduce offending behaviour in the long term while supporting children to develop positive pathways and be contributing members of their community'. CQID further stated that it 'does not support the expansion of punitive youth justice responses proposed within the Bill, including the extension of adult sentencing frameworks to additional offences'. CQID is concerned that 'these measures risk increasing justice system involvement for vulnerable children without addressing the structural drivers of youth offending'.[27]

The Australian Multicultural Action Network Inc (AMAN) submitted that the 'expansion of offences subject to the Adult Crime, Adult Time framework represents a significant shift in youth justice policy'.[28]

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23 Department, written briefing, 10 March 2026, p 10.

24 For example, see David Hetherington (submission 4), Tracey Mills (submission 5), Karleah Watson (submission 8), Ross Berg (submission 23), Anold Miambo (submission 30), Kevin Glen McLean (submission 34), Michael Gillian (submission 55), Tony Grimmond (submission 58), Braydon Kyte (submission 84), Katja Wilkinson (submission 100), Joel Allen (submission 108), Chris Sanders (submission 160) and Shopping Centre Council of Australia (submission 172).

25 For example, Nikkita Maddren (submission 6), Lesley Agar (submission 26), Central Queensland Indigenous Development (submission 106), Queensland Advocacy for Inclusion (submission123), QUT Centre for Justice (submission 139), Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (submission 145), Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (submission 147), Gladstone Region Autistic & Neurodivergent Network Inc (submission 148), Anglicare Southern Queensland (submission 154), Queensland Law Society (submission 184) and Bar Association of Queensland (submission 186).

26 Voices for Victims Foundation (submission 144).

27 Submission 106, p 1.

28 Submission 1, p 2.

The QLS and BAQ submitted that it was important that judicial discretion be maintained and protected.[29]

A number of submitters commented that the Bill disproportionately impacts vulnerable children, including those with disabilities, entrenched disadvantage, or First Nations children who are already overrepresented in the youth justice system.[30]

Some submitters contended that the Bill does not provide adequate justification for limiting human rights, and that the negative impacts on the rights of children are likely to outweigh the stated aims of punishment, denunciation and community safety. Similarly, some submitters were concerned that the Bill introduces measures that are incompatible with human rights.[31] Some submissions also stated that there are no exceptional circumstances to warrant the further override of the HRA.[32]

At the Brisbane hearing, witness views were divided. Victim-focused organisations and some business representatives supported the expansion of the Adult Crime, Adult Time regime as necessary to restore accountability and better recognise victim harm. Some legal bodies, youth advocates, health and housing organisations opposed further expansion, arguing there was no evidence it improves community safety, risks breaching human rights, increases court delays, and entrenches vulnerable children and young people in the justice system without addressing the underlying causes of offending.[33]

At the Nambour hearing, witnesses generally supported the intent of expanding the Adult Crime, Adult Time regime to strengthen consequences and deterrence, particularly from a community safety and business confidence perspective. However, witnesses cautioned that adult sentencing alone will not reduce offending unless paired with early intervention, rehabilitation, housing and coordinated services.[34]

At the Maryborough hearing, business and resident witnesses largely supported the Adult Crime, Adult Time regime as a long-overdue response to crime and antisocial behaviour

[29] Submission 184 and 186.

[30] For example, see Nikkita Maddren (submission 6), Lesley Agar (submission 26), Central Queensland Indigenous Development (submission 106), QUT Centre for Justice (submission 139), Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (submission 145), Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (submission 147), Gladstone Reion Autistic & Neurodivergent Network Inc (submission 148), Anglicare Southern Queensland (submission 154), Queensland Law Society (submission 184) and Bar Association of Queensland (submission 186).

[31] For example, see UN Youth Queensland (submission 97),National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (submission 126), Mental Health Lived Experience Peak Queensland (submission 128), YFS Legal (submission 141), Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (submission 147), Gladstone Reion Autistic & Neurodivergent Network Inc (submission 148), Anglicare Southern Queensland (submission 154), Queensland Law Society (submission 184) and Bar Association of Queensland (submission 186).

[32] For example, see Youth Advocacy Centre (submission 143), Hub Community Legal (submission 170) and Bar Association of Queensland (submission 186).

[33] See Public Hearing Transcript, Brisbane, 27 March 2026.

[34] See Public Hearing Transcript, Nambour, 30 March 2026.

that undermines safety, tourism and investment. Some witnesses expressed concerns that expanding adult sentencing may worsen long-term crime outcomes for young people if not balanced with rehabilitation, mental health care and housing.[35]

At the Townsville hearing, business groups, many retailers, some residents and security representatives expressed clear support for treating youth offenders more like adults for serious repeat offending, arguing that current settings have failed to deter behaviour, exposed staff and the public to violence, and enabled older offenders to exploit younger people. In contrast, some witnesses opposed or cautioned against the expansion.[36]

5.7. Departmental response

In response to concerns raised by submitters on the expanded Adult Crime, Adult Time provisions in the Bill, the department stated:

> *Early data indicates that since the introduction of Adult Crime, Adult Time, there has been a reduction in the number of proven Adult Crime, Adult Time offences.*
>
> *From December 2024 to December 2025, compared to that same period last year, there has been a 27% drop in the number of proven Adult Crime, Adult Time offences. This could suggest that Adult Crime, Adult Time is effectively deterring offending, having a positive impact on reducing crime and enhancing community safety.*
>
> *DYJVS will continue to monitor the impacts of the amendments as data become available over time.*[37]

In response to concerns of the QLS and the BAQ regarding the removal of judicial discretion under the Bill in the context of mandatory minimum non-parole periods, the department stated that 'except in the case of mandatory penalties, the amendments continue to enable the exercise of judicial discretion in sentencing'. [38]

In response to concerns of submitters about the Bill having a disproportionate impact on vulnerable children, such as First Nations children, children with disabilities and children already entrenched in the system, the department stated:

> *The amendments are complemented by supports and services being administered by DYJVS which are intended to address the causes of youth crime. DYJVS is implementing Government Election Commitments which include significant new investment in early intervention and rehabilitation supports and services intended to address the causes of youth crime.*[39]

5.8. Issues arising under fundamental legislative principles

The Bill proposes to add 12 offences to the Adult Crime, Adult Time scheme. It would also add attempts and conspiracy to commit offences, and becoming an accessory after the

35 See Public Hearing Transcript, Maryborough, 31 March 2026.
36 See Public Hearing Transcript, Townsville, 9 April 2026.
37 DYJVS correspondence, dated 26 March 2026, Attachment, p 5.
38 DYJVS correspondence, dated 26 March 2026, Attachment, p 5.
39 DYJVS correspondence, dated 26 March 2026, Attachment, p 6.

fact, to scheme offences, and widen the circumstances in which attempted robbery is included.[40] Children found guilty of these offences would face the same maximum penalties as adults. This impacts the rights and liberties of children because they would likely spend longer in detention and may be sentenced to detention more frequently, as certain sentencing options generally available to young offenders would be removed.

The LSA requires that legislation must have sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and the consequences of legislation should be relevant and proportionate. In line with this, penalties should be proportionate to the offence, and penalties within legislation should be consistent with each other.[41]

A range of young offenders may be sentenced to detention for life, for the following offences:

- the abuse of persons with an impairment of the mind (in specified circumstances)
- aiding suicide, and
- disabling in order to commit indictable offence.[42]

In her explanatory speech, the Minister explained why the prescribed offences were included:

> *They involve planned and coordinated violence, the exploitation of children and vulnerable individuals, the deliberate incapacitation of victims in order to commit further harm and strangulation by a person you are supposed to be able to trust. These offences can leave victims physically harmed, psychologically traumatised and in some cases fighting for their lives.*[43]

In relation to the Bill's consistency with fundamental legislative principles and its impact on children, the explanatory notes state:

> *While a child's liberty may be impacted by imposing mandatory minimum non-parole periods for certain offences where a child is sentenced to life imprisonment, this is limited to specific serious offences that cause significant harm to victims in order to achieve the policy intent of holding youth offenders accountable for their actions.*
>
> *Similarly, exposing children to adult maximum penalties may result in lengthier and more frequent terms of detention, impacting the rights and liberties of children. However, this will also be limited only to the specified serious offences and courts will retain sentencing discretion as to the penalty imposed.*[44]

40 Appendix B contains a full list of the offences.
41 See also LSA, s 4(2)(a).
42 Sections 216, 311 and 315 of the Criminal Code, respectively. See also: stupefying in order to commit indictable offence (s 316), riot (in the specified circumstances) (s 61(1)) and endangering the safety of a person in a vehicle with intent (s 319). See Appendix B for greater detail.
43 Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceedings, 3 March 2026, p 371.
44 Explanatory notes, p 9.

In terms of the proposed amendments seeking to include attempts and conspiracies to commit a scheme offence, accessories after the fact to a scheme offence, and the simpliciter offence of attempted robbery, the explanatory notes assert that the Bill:

> *… recognises the potential harm caused to victims by these offences and acknowledges that simply because an attempt was unsuccessful does not lessen the significance of the offending in any real way for the victims of such crimes.*[45]

As noted above:

- the court must still consider whether to make a court diversion referral or a presentence referral to a restorative justice process, having regard to the nature of the offence and to other specified matters
- the court can still make a conditional release order
- the court must still order and consider a presentence report prior to sentencing
- the court has discretion as to the release date
- where a Childrens Court magistrate sentences a child for one of the prescribed offences, the order can still be subject to a sentence review.[46]

Committee comment

The committee notes that the objective of the Bill is to enhance community safety and hold young offenders accountable for their crimes. The Bill proposes to do this by increasing the penalties for young offenders who commit prescribed offences.

The committee also notes:

- the additional Adult Crime, Adult Time offences are limited to serious offences that cause significant harm to victims
- the judiciary is still required to exercise its discretion within the bounds of the Youth Justice Act when sentencing young offenders.

On this basis, the committee is satisfied that the increased penalties for particular offences are relevant and proportionate in the circumstances to achieve the policy intent of the Bill. As such, it is the committee's view that the provisions of the Bill have sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals.

5.9. Human Rights issues

The effect of this part of the Bill is that children will be liable to the same maximum penalties as adults if convicted of the additional offences that form part of the Adult Crime,

[45] Explanatory notes, p 1.
[46] Explanatory notes, p 3.

Adult Time offences scheme. This amendment limits the following human rights of children under the HRA because it will result in more children being sentenced to, and spending more time in, detention:

- Right to equal protection of the law without discrimination (section 15(3))
- Right to equal and effective protection against discrimination (section 15(4))
- Right to protection from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (section 17)
- Right of children to protection in their best interest (section 26(2))
- Right to liberty and security of person (section 29(1))
- Right to humane treatment when deprived of liberty (section 30).[47]

The impact of the Bill on each of these rights is discussed in detail in the statement of compatibility.[48] Some key points include:

- The right of children to protection in their best interests recognises the special protection that must be afforded to children based on their particular vulnerability and is based on the *United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child* (CRC). The underlying principle in the CRC is that 'the best interests of the child' shall be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children.[49]
- The Bill may also impact the cultural rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples[50] due to the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the criminal justice system and the likely impact longer sentences would have on their ability, amongst other things, to maintain kinship ties. The statement of compatibility acknowledges these issues and notes that these provisions 'are a direct response to growing community concern and outrage over crimes perpetrated by young offenders'.[51]

The purpose of the limitations on these rights is to reduce crime and enhance community safety.[52]

The statement of compatibility for the Bill also states that section 175A is subject to the existing override declaration. The override declaration provides that section 175A 'has effect despite being incompatible with human rights, and despite anything else in the *Human Rights Act 2019*'.[53] According to the statement of compatibility

> *… the current situation with respect to youth crime in Queensland presents an exceptional crisis situation constituting a threat to public safety such that the*

47 Statement of compatibility, p 5.
48 Statement of compatibility, pp 5-8.
49 United Nations, Convention of the Rights of the Child, art 3(1).
50 HRA, s 28.
51 Statement of compatibility, pp 5-6.
52 Statement of compatibility, p 7.
53 Statement of compatibility, p 8.

addition of the new offences within the scope of the override declaration in section 175A of the Youth Justice Act is justified.[54]

5.9.1. Stakeholder submissions on human rights issues

In relation to the human rights aspects of the Bill, some submitters expressed a view that the Bill does not provide adequate justification for limiting human rights, and that the negative impacts on the rights of children are likely to outweigh the stated aims of punishment, denunciation and community safety. Similarly, some submitters were concerned that the Bill introduces measures that are incompatible with human rights and international obligations, for example, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.[55] A number of submissions also stated that there are no exceptional circumstances to warrant this further override of the HRA.[56]

5.9.2. Department response on human rights issues

In response to the concerns of submitters about the human rights aspects of the expansion of the Adult Crime, Adult Time regime under the Bill, the department stated that the Government has presented its human rights analysis in the statement of compatibility that was tabled with the Bill.[57]

Committee comment

The committee has considered the various views of stakeholders regarding the inclusion of additional offences in the Adult Crime, Adult Time sentencing regime under the Bill and their implications on human rights as expressed in the HRA.

It is acknowledged in the statement of compatibility tabled with the Bill that these amendments are incompatible with the HRA.

However, while a number of submitters raised concerns about the Bill's incompatibility with human rights, the committee also heard from a significant number of concerned citizens from across the state by way of written submissions and at the public hearings who were supportive of the proposed amendments and their purpose to enhance safety in their communities.

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54 Statement of compatibility, p 8.

55 For example, see UN Youth Queensland (submission 97), National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (submission 126), Mental Health Lived Experience Peak Queensland (submission 128), YFS Legal (submission 141), Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (submission 147), Gladstone Region Autistic & Neurodivergent Network Inc (submission 148), Anglicare Southern Queensland (submission 154), Queensland Law Society (submission 184) and Bar Association of Queensland (submission 186).

56 For example, see UN Youth Queensland (submission 97), PeakCare (submission 134), Youth Advocacy Centre (submission 143), Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union (submission 147) Hub Community Legal (submission 170) and Bar Association of Queensland (submission 186).

57 Letter dated 26 March 2026 from the Department to the committee, Attachment, p 6.

The committee understands from the statement of compatibility that an override declaration was deemed not required, as the provisions of the Bill are subject to the override declaration in existing section 175A of the Youth Justice Act. The committee concurs with the Minister that youth crime in Queensland currently constitutes an exceptional crisis situation that poses a threat to public safety, and that the addition of new offences is within the scope of the preexisting override declaration.

Therefore, it is the committee's view that there is a justified and adequate basis for the HRA to be overridden in respect of the current amending Bill.

The committee further acknowledges that the statement of compatibility tabled with the introduction of the Bill provides a sufficient level of information to facilitate understanding of the Bill in relation to its compatibility with human rights.

6. Illicit Drug Enforcement and Diversion Framework

6.1. Current Police Drug Diversion Program

The current PDDP involves 'a three-tiered system which affords offenders multiple opportunities to avoid criminal charges when a person is found in possession of a small prescribed quantity of dangerous drug or illicit pharmaceutical'. The current PDDP applied not only to cannabis but had been expanded to 'include all schedule 1 and schedule 2 drugs, which are drugs such as 'methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, fentanyl, ketamine, MDMA [3,4-Methylenedioxymethamphetamine] and GHB [gamma-hydroxybutyrate]'.[58]

Issues under the current PDDP include that:

- police officers are provided with limited discretion, and
- eligible adults must be offered a drug diversion warning for a first offence, followed by an offer to attend a drug diversion assessment program for a second and third offence.[59]

The explanatory notes explain that by allowing individuals to avoid criminal prosecution for illicit drug possession on up to three occasions, 'the current PDDP risks conveying that

[58] Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceedings, 3 March 2026, p 371. The original PDDP under the PPRA was expanded by the *Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023* to introduce drug diversion warnings, allowing an eligible person an opportunity to participate in a subsequent drug diversion assessment program, and expanding minor drug offences to include the possession of prescribed quantities of any type of dangerous drug and certain pharmaceuticals.

[59] Explanatory notes, p 1.

illicit drug use is tolerable while simultaneously weakening the deterrent effect of these criminal offences'.[60]

In her Introduction Speech, the Minister elaborated on the effects of illicit drug use and addiction including how it can lead to overdoses and destroy people's lives. She also spoke of the associated mental health and other health issues such as cardiac conditions, chronic liver disease and long-term neurological harm caused by drugs. The Minister spoke of the issues under the current PDDP:

> *In 2023 alone, Queensland recorded 310 unintentional drug induced deaths. Last year, more than 1,100 Queenslanders were admitted to public hospitals for illicit drug poisoning. This is not harmless behaviour. It affects not only the drug user but also the community. These are hard drugs and they can devastate communities. They are linked to organised crime, to property offending and to domestic and family violence. These are the drugs that fuel violence. Under Labor's model, so long as an offender said those drugs were for personal use, the ability for police to use their discretion to lay charges and commence court proceedings—commence consequences—was removed.* [61]

6.2. Overview of proposal under the Bill

The explanatory notes state that the Bill aims 'to strike an appropriate balance between holding repeat drug offenders accountable and providing an opportunity for health-based interventions for first-time and low-risk offenders'.[62]

The Bill establishes a new IDEDF by replacing existing diversion arrangements in the PDDP with a 'more targeted model'. The new IDEDF limits diversion to first time and low risk drug offenders through two distinct pathways:

- for a minor cannabis offence, or
- for a minor drug offence.[63]

6.2.1. Minor Cannabis Offence Pathway

A minor cannabis offence refers to the possession of no more than 50 grams of cannabis for personal use. When an eligible adult is arrested or questioned in relation to such an offence, they must be given the option to participate in a drug diversion program. However, when dealing with children, police retain discretion and may choose alternative responses under the Youth Justice Act, such as issuing a caution or taking no further action.[64]

60 Explanatory notes, p 1.
61 Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceedings, 3 March 2026, p 371.
62 Explanatory notes, p 2.
63 Statement of compatibility, p 2.
64 Explanatory notes, p 4.

Consistent with current legislation, a person who agrees to take part in a drug diversion program must sign a cannabis diversion agreement. This agreement confirms their commitment to complete the program and permits the sharing of relevant information between authorised entities regarding their progress or non-compliance. If the person fails to comply with the terms of the agreement, the existing penalties for the offence will apply.[65]

6.2.2. Minor Drug Offence Pathway

Under the new framework, if an eligible offender is arrested or questioned by a police officer in connection with a minor drug offence, the officer may, at their discretion, issue a Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN) instead of initiating formal legal proceedings. A minor drug offence is defined as the possession of no more than the prescribed amount of a dangerous drug or a Schedule 4 or Schedule 8 medicine, such as small quantities of substances like cocaine or MDMA intended for personal use. Any person who is issued with a PIN for a minor drug offence will have 28 days from the date of issue to:

- pay the fine in full or set up a payment plan; or
- elect for the matter to proceed to court; or
- elect to participate in and complete a drug diversion program.[66]

If the person chooses to participate in a drug diversion program and completes it within the required timeframe, the PIN will be taken as satisfied and no further action will be taken.

An eligible offender may be offered only one opportunity to receive a PIN for a minor drug offence in lieu of formal proceedings. If the person does not respond to the PIN within 28 days of its issue or does not complete the drug diversion program within the required timeframe, proceedings may be initiated for the offence or the matter may be referred to the State Penalty Enforcement Register (SPER) for enforcement. The explanatory notes further indicate that the *State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999* (SPE Act) applies only in a limited capacity to children.[67]

6.2.3. Drug Utensil Offences

Drug utensils are excluded from any diversionary pathways. Police officers will have the discretion to issue PINs for low-level offences involving the possession of a drug utensil for use in connection with the administration, consumption or smoking of a dangerous drug. Police will not be limited to the number of utensil related PINs which they can issue

[65] Explanatory notes, p 4; statement of compatibility, p 3; Department, written briefing, 10 March 2026, p 6.
[66] Explanatory notes, p 5; Department, written briefing, 10 March 2026, p 7.
[67] Explanatory notes, p 5; Department, written briefing, 10 March 2026, p 7.

to a person. Unlike a minor drug offence PIN, a person will not be able to discharge payment of a PIN for a drug utensil offence by completing a drug diversion program.[68]

6.3. Inter-jurisdictional comparison of drug diversion programs

In its written briefing, the department provided an inter-jurisdictional comparison of police drug diversion programs across a number of Australian jurisdictions.[69]

6.4. Stakeholder submissions

There were divergent views, in support[70] and against[71], the introduction of the proposed IDEDF amendments.

A form submission from 201 submitters was in favour of the proposal to take a strong stance on illicit drugs, particularly in the Southport and Gold Coast region.[72] Similarly, Brayden Kyte's submission supported the IDEDF framework in which 'diversion is generally available once for eligible minor drug offences'. Mr Kyte's submission noted that '[a] single diversion opportunity recognises the value of rehabilitation while maintaining accountability for repeat offending'.[73]

Helen Tagg's submission supported 'a more accountable approach to drug-related offences' and argued that:

> *The current system has not always led to change. Repeated opportunities without meaningful consequence do not help individuals or the broader community.*[74]

With respect to IDEDF, AMAN submitted that the Bill 'presents both opportunities and risks'. AMAN welcomed the Bill's continued provision of diversion pathways but emphasised the need to ensure these pathways remain meaningful and accessible. AMAN emphasised that a 'purely punitive approach rarely solves underlying causes'.[75] AMAN also noted that culturally and linguistically diverse communities often experience unique barriers when accessing support services. AMAN submitted that culturally informed diversion services are necessary to ensure that individuals are able to access

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68 Explanatory notes, p 6; Department, written briefing, 10 March 2026, p 7.
69 Department, written briefing, 10 March 2026, pp 10-11.
70 For example, see Kenna French (submission 9), Ross Berg (submission 23), Peter Clark (submission 24), Rhys Bosley (submission 28), Brayden Kyte (submission 84), Jackie Elston (submission 116), Jie Wu (submission 117) and Form A submission from 201 submitters (submission 178).
71 For example, see Jason Wain (submission 44), QNADA (submission 103), AMA Queensland (submission 115), QuIHN (submission 120), QuiVAA (submission 130), DrugARM (submission 135), YFS Legal (submission 141), Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (submission 145), Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (submission 147), QATSICPP (submission 156), The Salvation Army (submission 159), Sisters Inside (submission 161), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) Ltd (submission 175), Hub Community Legal (submission 179), Basic Rights Queensland (submission 183).
72 Submission 178 (Form A submission from 201 submitters), p 1.
73 Submission 84, p 5.
74 Submission 124, p 1.
75 Submission 1, pp 3-4.

support from the broader community, especially where there are language barriers, stigma around addiction, and a lack of culturally appropriate treatment programs.[76] AMAN recommended that such culturally responsive diversion programs could include

- bilingual counsellors
- culturally appropriate rehabilitation programs
- partnerships with community organisations.[77]

Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (QNADA) indicated that it was disappointed to note the loss of an initial warning or caution within the existing PDDP. QNADA recommended that this aspect of the PDDP be retained.[78]

A number of submitters raised questions regarding the policy rationale for the different diversionary pathways and drug utensil offences.[79] For example, QNADA queried why the Bill differentiates between a minor cannabis offence, minor drug offence and drug utensils offence. QNADA also queried why there is an option for a PIN for a minor drug offence and the drug utensils offence, but not for a minor cannabis offence.

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) endorsed QNADA's submission and urged the Government to 'ensure diversion remains an accessible and effective pathway for people found in possession of small quantities of drugs to receive support without unnecessary contact with the criminal justice system'.[80] ADF also raised the concern that, under the proposed amendments in the Bill, people found in possession of drug paraphernalia will be ineligible for diversion.[81]

A number of stakeholders submitted that drug use is often associated with, or in response to, a range of complex underlying issues such as homelessness, mental health instability, family and domestic violence, trauma, and other social and economic disadvantage.[82]

Some submitters suggested that the current program is working effectively and advised that a tiered drug diversion framework should be maintained, including the use of drug warnings, to provide recurring health-based interventions.[83] For example, AMA Queensland submitted:

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[76] Submission 1, pp 3-4.
[77] Submission 1, p 4.
[78] Submission 103, p 4.
[79] For example, see QNADA (submission 103), QuIHN Ltd (submission 120), QuiVAA (submission 130), Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (submission 147) and QLS (submission 184).
[80] Submission 153, pp 1-2.
[81] Submission 153, p 5.
[82] For example, see AMAN (submission 1), AMA Queensland (submission 115), Peter Hogg (submission 119), Voice for Victims Foundation (submission 144), Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (submission 145), QATSICPP (submission 156), The Salvation Army (submission 159), Sisters Inside (submission 161), Legal Aid Queensland (submission 176) and Queensland Mental Health Commission (submission 181).
[83] For example, see AMA Queensland (submission 115), QNADA (submission 103), QuiVAA (submission 130). DrugARM (submission 135) and Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (submission 145), Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (submission 147), Alcohol and

> *Since its inception in 2021, AMA Queensland has championed the enactment of the PDDP as an evidence-based and cost-effective approach to drug use in the community.*[84]

Other submitters disagreed with implementing the proposed reform before completion of the independent evaluation report on the current framework being conducted by the University of Queensland which is due in May 2026.[85]

At the public hearings held in Brisbane, Nambour, Maryborough and Townsville,[86] witnesses expressed divided positions on the Bill's drug provisions. Business groups, some residents and community advocates[87] who deal directly with open drug use supported firmer enforcement. Some argued that the current diversion strategies were not changing behaviour on the ground and were contributing to visible drug use, intimidation and harm in public places; they saw stronger police powers as a necessary interim tool to protect children, workers and businesses.

At the Nambour hearing, Nambour Now expressed the following concerns:

> *Based on my understanding of talking to businesses throughout my community, they are dealing with people continually using drugs openly in front of their businesses. What we are seeing is that whatever is happening right now does not work...What I can say is that currently whatever is going on does not work on the ground. … We have people in our parks using in front of kids, shooting up, right near the school.*[88]

A similar sentiment was expressed by The Shack Community Centre:

> *Over the years with the diversional programs I have seen in place, I have not really seen any of them work effectively in the context of my work and also for the other 12 people who are also going into that program.*[89]

In contrast, some health professionals, and community service providers, along with some other submitters opposed winding back diversion[90] Some witnesses called for any stricter

Drug Foundation (submission 153), Queensland Council of Social Service (submission 155), Legal Aid Queensland (submission 176), Queensland Mental Health Commission (submission 181) and QLS (submission 184)

84 AMA Queensland, submission 115, p 1.

85 See for example, Queensland Mental Health Commission, submission 181, p 3 and QLS, submission 184, p 2.

86 See Public Hearing Transcripts, Brisbane, 27 March 2026; Nambour, 30 March 2026; Maryborough, 31 March 2026 and Townsville, 9 April 2026.

87 For example, see Public Hearing Transcript, Brisbane, 27 March 2026; Drug Free Australia (pp 5-8), Shopping Centre Council of Australia (pp 13-15); Public Hearing Transcript, Nambour, 30 March 2026, Nambour Tramway Company (pp 4-7), Nambour Now (pp 8-12), I am Nambour (pp 16-20); Public Hearing Transcript, Maryborough, 31 March 2026, House of Holabox/The Queens Development (Maryborough CBD)(pp 5-8), Maryborough Chamber of Commerce (pp 9-13) and Mary Inc. (pp 12-15); Public Hearing Transcript, Townsville, 9 April 2026, Townsville Chamber of Commerce (pp 4-8), Ms Carol Scott (pp 23-24) and Yumba-Meta Limited (pp 9-12).

88 Public Hearing Transcript, Nambour, 30 March 2026, p 10.

89 Public Hearing Transcript, Nambour, 30 March 2026, p 13.

90 For example, see Public Hearing Transcript, Brisbane, 27 March 2026, QNADA (pp 16-19), Q Shelter (pp 24-29), QLS and BAQ (pp 20-23), Public Hearing Transcript, Nambour, 30 March 2026, Nambour Community Centre (pp 24-27), The Shack Community Centre (pp 12-15), Emily Cooper (p 30), Emma Kill (p 32) and Geoff Davey (p 31); Public Hearing Transcript, Maryborough, 31 March 2026,

enforcement to be tightly balanced with well-resourced treatment, rehabilitation and housing supports rather than replacing diversion altogether.[91]

6.5. Departmental response

In response to general concerns raised by submitters on the new IDEDF provisions in the Bill, the department stated:

> *The intent of the Bill is to enhance community safety by providing clear consequences for repeated criminal conduct while providing health intervention opportunities for eligible low-risk and first-time offenders.* [92]

In response to concerns raised by submitters that drug use is often associated with, or in response to, a range of complex underlying issues such as homelessness, mental health instability, family and domestic violence, trauma, and other social and economic disadvantage, the department stated:

> *The QPS acknowledges that illicit drug use is frequently associated with complex and interrelated underlying factors, including homelessness, mental health instability, family and domestic violence, trauma, and broader social and economic disadvantage. The QPS provides training to enhance officers' understanding of these vulnerabilities and their awareness of police referral pathways. This ensures police officers are equipped to respond appropriately to vulnerable cohorts and can connect individuals with health and social service agencies, when appropriate, while maintaining community safety.*[93]

In response to concerns of submitters that illicit substance use should be approached as a health issue rather than criminalisation, the department stated that:

> *The policy objective of the Bill is to maintain drug diversion opportunities for eligible first-time and low-risk offenders while ensuring repeat offenders are held criminally responsible for their conduct. The QPS will continue to provide additional health responses via the police referral system to connect vulnerable cohorts to health and social service partnerships, when appropriate.* [94]

Stakeholders questioned the policy rationale for different diversionary pathways, why a PIN is available for a minor drug and a drug utensil offence but not for a minor cannabis offence, and why diversionary opportunities are not applicable to low level drug utensil offences. The department responded that the distinction between the minor cannabis offence pathway and the minor drug offence pathway reflects policy decisions of Government. The department further advised:

> *Under the framework, a minor cannabis offence is limited to a single diversionary opportunity, consistent with the intent to provide an early health-based intervention. In contrast, enabling a PIN to be issued for a minor drug*

Maryborough Ministers Fellowship (p 25) and Ms Leanie Shaw (p 27); Public Hearing Transcript, Townsville, 9 April 2026, Ms Suzanne Wales (pp 21-22) and Ms Lee-Anne Whalley (pp 13-16).

91 See Public Hearing Transcripts, Brisbane, 27 March 2026; Nambour, 30 March 2026, Maryborough, 31 March 2026 and Townsville, 9 April 2026.

92 Letter dated 26 March 2026 from the Department to the committee, Attachment, p 11.

93 Letter dated 26 March 2026 from the Department to the committee, Attachment, p 13.

94 Letter dated 26 March 2026 from the Department to the committee, Attachment, p 14.

offence allows for a stronger deterrent response, noting the higher penalty associated with a PIN. This approach is intended to reflect the relative seriousness of non-cannabis drug offences while still preserving an opportunity for eligible persons to elect diversion in lieu of paying the fine.

The Bill introduces a new police response to low-level drug utensil offences by enabling police to issue a PIN instead of commencing criminal proceedings. Even though diversionary opportunities will not apply to these offences, drug utensil PINS will not have an eligibility criterion, and an offender may be issued multiple throughout their lifetime.[95]

6.6. Fundamental Legislative Principles

The explanatory notes set out a number of issues of fundamental legislative principles which arise in relation to the new IDEDF under the Bill.[96]

6.6.1. Administrative power is sufficiently defined

To have sufficient regard for the rights and liberties of individuals, legislation should ensure that any rights, liberties, or obligations dependent on administrative power are clearly defined and subject to appropriate review mechanisms.[97]

The new IDEDF grants police officers discretionary administrative authority when determining whether to issue a PIN for a minor drug offence instead of commencing formal proceedings. The explanatory notes state that granting police officers discretion to issue a PIN for a minor drug offence – thereby allowing a person the option to participate in a drug diversion program instead of facing formal proceedings – 'ensures officers have the necessary operational flexibility to respond to this high-risk conduct'. The Bill also establishes 'a clear statutory criterion for eligibility' to further reduce the risk of misuse.[98]

6.6.2. Consistent with principles of natural justice

To have sufficient regard for the rights and liberties of individuals, the legislation must be consistent with natural justice.[99]

Conferring on police a discretionary power to issue a PIN that imposes a monetary penalty and, if not properly addressed, renders an individual liable to further enforcement action by SPER, may give rise to concerns about unequal treatment, reduced transparency, and the potential infringement of natural justice. However, the explanatory notes explain that the individual may choose to contest the PIN in court and require the prosecution to prove all elements of the offence. This aspect ensures that the principles of natural justice are preserved. The rationale being that:

… the individual retains the right to be heard and is afforded a reasonable opportunity to contest the allegation and respond to the prosecution's case.

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95 Letter dated 26 March 2026 from the Department to the committee, Attachment, p 14.
96 Explanatory notes, pp 9-11.
97 LSA, s 4(3)(a).
98 Explanatory notes, p 10.
99 LSA, s 4(3)(b).

The new PINs in the Bill also operate within the existing framework of the SPE Act and are therefore subject to the full suite of legislative safeguards already established under that Act.[100]

6.6.3. Penalties are proportionate

To have sufficient regard for the rights and liberties of individuals, the consequences of legislation should be relevant and proportionate. In line with this, a penalty should be proportionate to the offence, and penalties within legislation should be consistent with each other.[101]

The explanatory notes state that:

- The prescribed penalties for a minor drug offence PIN (three penalty units) and drug utensil offences (two penalty units) are reasonable and proportionate.
- These penalties are largely consistent with guidelines for the prescription of penalty infringement notice offences under the SPE Regulation.
- The penalty amounts likely represent a lesser penalty than the person may be liable to receive if the matter was decided by a court, noting for example, the offender may be sentenced to a period of imprisonment or a greater monetary penalty.[102]

Committee comment

The committee is satisfied that the provisions of the Bill relating to the IDEDF are consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

6.7. General human rights

The new IDEDF under the Bill limits a range of human rights as expressed in the HRA, which are discussed below.

6.7.1. Right to a fair hearing and rights in criminal proceedings

A person charged with a criminal offence or a party to a civil proceeding has the right to have the charge or proceeding decided by a competent, independent and impartial court or tribunal after a fair and public hearing.[103] The right 'affirms the right of all individuals to procedural fairness when coming before a court or tribunal'.[104]

[100] Explanatory notes, p 10.
[101] Office of Queensland Parliamentary Counsel, *Fundamental legislative principles: the OQPC Notebook*, p 120; LSA, s 4(2)(a).
[102] Explanatory notes, p 10.
[103] See HRA 31(1).
[104] Queensland Government, Guide: Nature and scope of the human rights protected in the *Human Rights Act 2019,* version 3, June 2025, p 137.

The Bill may limit the right to a fair hearing because the amendments may result in an offender discharging liability for an offence by paying a fine, rather than by participating in a judicial process. A person may, for example, elect to pay the PIN rather than pursue a judicial process for reasons such as cost, fear or lack of knowledge of the judicial process, and to procure a quick resolution of a matter despite feeling wronged by the particular charge.[105]

A person charged with a criminal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.[106] The Bill may limit a person's rights in criminal proceedings because prescribing an offence as a PIN offence enables a PIN to be issued prior to any finding of guilt.[107]

Analysis

Allowing an offender to discharge their liability by paying a PIN could be seen as potentially limiting their right to a fair hearing. It is reasonable to expect this limitation would conserve judicial and law enforcement resources, reduce the number of court matters, and enable more timely resolution of court matters. According to the statement of compatibility, the Bill 'seeks to limit the use of the criminal courts to circumstances where judicial determination is necessary' and 'offers an administrative alternative that is less intrusive than prosecution'.[108] Further, that the PIN scheme does not extinguish or undermine fundamental procedural rights, because:

> *A person who is issued with a penalty infringement notice retains the ability to elect to have the matter dealt with by a court, at which point the full protections associated with a fair hearing and criminal proceedings apply.*[109]

6.7.2. Right to recognition and equality before the law

Every person has the right to enjoy the person's human rights without discrimination[110] and the right to equal and effective protection against discrimination.[111] Every person is equal before the law and is entitled to the equal protection of the law without discrimination.[112]

There are several ways the proposed amendments would limit the right to recognition and equality before the law.

According to the statement of compatibility, the proposed eligibility criteria for the IDEDF 'introduces differential treatment of specific cohorts for comparable conduct'.[113] For

[105] Statement of compatibility, p 9.
[106] HRA, s 32(1).
[107] Statement of compatibility, p 9.
[108] Statement of compatibility, p 11.
[109] Statement of compatibility, p 11.
[110] See HRA, s 15(2).
[111] See HRA, s 15(4).
[112] See HRA, s 15(3).
[113] Statement of compatibility, p 10.

example, for a minor cannabis offence, a range of people would be excluded from accessing a drug diversion program, including:

- a person who has committed another indictable offence in circumstances related to the minor cannabis offence
- a person who has previously been found guilty of a specified drug offence[114] (such as an offence involving production or supply of a dangerous drug or trafficking in a dangerous drug), including a person with a spent conviction[115] for the offence
- a person whom a police officer does not reasonably believe possessed the cannabis for their personal use
- a person who has previously been offered the opportunity to complete a drug diversion program under the new provisions.[116]

The proposed amendments associated with a minor drug offence exclude a similar range of people from the benefit of a drug diversion program.[117]

The inclusion of eligibility criteria to access a drug diversion program could be seen as limiting the right to recognition and equality before the law. This is because persons who fail to meet the Bill's proposed requirements would be excluded from accessing a drug diversion program.

The inclusion in the Bill of eligibility criteria that provide a police officer with discretion to determine whether a requirement has been met or whether a PIN should be served on a person could be seen as limiting the right to recognition and equality before the law.

The proposed PIN regime may disproportionately affect certain groups, such as First Nations peoples, individuals with mental health conditions, 'people experiencing financial hardship, vulnerable persons, or children'.[118] This is because people in these groups may encounter greater difficulty in meeting the financial imposition of a PIN.

[114] Specifically, against sections 5, 6, 8, 9 or 9D of the DM Act.

[115] A spent conviction is a conviction for which the rehabilitation period under the *Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986* (CLRO Act) has expired. *Acts Interpretation Act 1954*, sch 1. See also CLRO Act, ss 3, 6.

[116] Bill, cl 24 (PPRA, replaces ch 14, pt 4, div 5). See new ss 378A and 378B.

[117] Specifically, the following people will be excluded from accessing such a program: a person who has committed another indictable offence in circumstances related to the minor drug offence; a person who has previously been found guilty of a specified drug offence (such as an offence involving production or supply of a dangerous drug or trafficking in a dangerous drug), including a person with a spent conviction for the offence; a person whom a police officer does not reasonably believe possessed the prohibited drug or medicine for their personal use and reasonably believes possessed more than one type of prohibited drug or medicine; and a person on whom a police officer served a PIN for the minor drug offence. Bill, cl 24 (PPRA, replaces ch 14, pt 4, div 5). See new ss 378F and 378G.

[118] Statement of compatibility, p 9.

The statement of compatibility acknowledges that providing police officers with discretion to issue a PIN or commence proceedings may lead to vulnerable groups being 'inequitably diverted from the criminal justice system', as:

> *First Nations peoples, individuals with mental health conditions, those who are culturally and linguistically diverse and people with low socio-economic status face greater prejudicial bias.*[119]

6.7.3. Protection of children's best interests

Every child has the right, without discrimination, to the protection that is needed by the child, and is in the child's best interests, because of being a child.[120]

In relation to a minor cannabis offence, the Bill may limit the protection of children's best interests by not requiring a police officer to offer participation in a drug diversion program to an eligible child (as is the requirement for eligible adults).[121] Rather, a police officer would have discretion as to whether they offer the program.[122]

Analysis

Although the Bill may limit the protection of a child's best interests by providing a police officer with discretion as to whether to offer an eligible child participation in a drug diversion program, the limitation is tempered by the existing requirement[123] that a police officer consider a range of specified actions before starting a proceeding against a child for a minor cannabis offence or minor drug offence.[124] These options include taking no action or administering a caution to the child.

The statement of compatibility notes, nevertheless, that a perception may arise that the police officer's discretion is inconsistent with the best interests principle, including that children should be diverted from the criminal justice system where possible and dealt with in a way that promotes rehabilitation rather than punishment.[125] However, the statement of compatibility also notes that, for a minor cannabis offence, it remains mandatory for a police officer to consider whether to offer the opportunity to participate in a drug diversion program, amongst the other options available to them.[126]

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[119] Statement of compatibility, p 10.
[120] HRA, s 26(2).
[121] Bill, cl 24 (PPRA, replaces ch 14, pt 4, div 5). See new ss 378C(1) and (2) and 378H(1)(a). Statement of compatibility, p 10.
[122] Bill, cl 24 (PPRA, replaces ch 14, pt 4, div 5). See new s 378C(2).
[123] As amended by the Bill. See Bill, cl 53 (Youth Justice Act, amends s 11). Clause 53 amends the Youth Justice Act to reflect the new minor cannabis offence pathway by providing that before a police officer starts proceedings against a child in relation to a minor cannabis offence, the officer must consider (in addition to the other matters mentioned) whether it is more appropriate in the circumstances to offer the child the opportunity to complete a drug diversion program under the PPRA, if the child is eligible. explanatory notes, p 29.
[124] Explanatory notes, p 4. See the Note in both proposed ss 378C(2) and 378G(1)(f). Bill, cl 24.
[125] Statement of compatibility, p 10.
[126] Statement of compatibility, p 12.

6.7.4. Right to privacy and reputation

A person has the right not to have their privacy, family, home or correspondence unlawfully or arbitrarily interfered with, and not to have the person's reputation unlawfully attacked.[127]

The Bill limits the right to privacy by seeking to provide that:

- a cannabis diversion agreement must include a provision authorising a relevant entity[128] to disclose, to another relevant entity, personal information about the person necessary to facilitate or monitor the person's participation in the drug diversion program[129]
- a police officer[130] must give the chief executive of Queensland Health (or the chief executive's nominee), a copy of the cannabis diversion agreement[131]
- where, in relation to a minor drug offence, a person elects to complete a drug diversion program,[132] a relevant entity[133] may disclose personal information to another relevant entity, which may include personal information about the person necessary to facilitate or monitor the person's participation in the program or to take action under the SPE Act in relation to the PIN.[134]

Personal information that may be disclosed by a relevant entity includes a person's name, address, phone number, date of birth or email address.[135]

Analysis

It appears reasonable to expect that the limitation on the right to privacy and reputation associated with the proposed information sharing provisions would advance the purpose of ensuring the effective administration, integrity and operation of the drug diversion program. According to the statement of compatibility:

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[127] See HRA, s 25.

[128] In this instance, a 'relevant entity' means the Commissioner of Police or an entity involved in providing or administering the drug diversion program. Bill, cl 24 (PPRA, replaces ch 14, pt 4, div 5). See new s 378D.

[129] The personal information must include information about the person's agreement to complete the program and about the person's completion of, or failure to complete, the program. It means information which identifies, or is likely to identify, the person, or information about the person's affairs. Bill, cl 24 (PPRA, replaces ch 14, pt 4, div 5). See new s 378D.

[130] Being, a police officer who gives a person a written requirement to complete a drug diversion program.

[131] Bill, cl 24 (PPRA, replaces ch 14, pt 4, div 5). See new s 378D.

[132] Within 28 days after the date of the PIN, an eligible person may elect to complete a drug diversion program. Bill, cl 24 (PPRA, replaces ch 14, pt 4, div 5). See new s 378I.

[133] In this instance, a 'relevant entity' means the Commissioner of Police or the registrar under the SPE Act (or another entity with administrative responsibilities relating to the PIN given to the person) or an entity involved in providing or administering the program. Bill, cl 24 (PPRA, replaces ch 14, pt 4, div 5). See new s 378K.

[134] This personal information may include information about the person's election to complete the program and about the person's completion of, or failure to complete, the program. It means information which identifies, or is likely to identify, the person, or information about the person's affairs. Bill, cl 24 (PPRA, replaces ch 14, pt 4, div 5). See new s 378K.

[135] Bill, cl 24 (PPRA, inserts new ss 378D(8) and 378K(4)). Statement of compatibility, pp 10-11.

The limited collection, use and disclosure of personal information is intended to enable relevant entities to identify eligible participants, facilitate timely referrals, coordinate service delivery, and confirm whether a person has completed the program.[136]

Committee comment

Regarding the human rights aspects which arise in relation to the proposed introduction of the new IDEDF, the committee considers that the Bill achieves a 'fair balance' between preserving the various human rights that may be limited by the introduction of the IDEDF and holding repeat and high-risk individuals criminally responsible. On this basis, the committee is satisfied that the Bill is compatible with human rights as expressed under the HRA and supports the objective of making Queensland a safer place to live.

7. Designated Business and Community Precincts

7.1. Overview of proposal under the Bill

The Bill introduces reforms to address anti-social behaviour in central business districts and community spaces by enhancing police powers. It proposes to amend the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* (PPRA) to prescribe areas that will be referred to as 'designated business and community precincts' (DBCP), which will be prescribed by regulation. A DBCP is an area where enhanced police powers apply to manage public order, safety, and business amenity. This new framework is similar to the existing 'Safe Night Precinct' (SNP) framework set out in the *Liquor Act 1992*.

Each DBCP must be reviewed within three years, and the Minister may sunset or revoke areas that no longer meet the purposes. Consultation with relevant local governments is required prior to prescription.

Under the Bill, the following four enhanced police tools will be available in DBCPs:

- Wanding: Officers may conduct hand-held scanning without a warrant and without the current requirement to obtain prior approval from a senior officer (extension of 'Jack's Law').[137]
- Move-on directions: Officers may direct a person to move on or leave a DBCP and not return to the DBCP for up to 24 hours. The new move on direction, available in a DBCP, will retain existing safeguards such as opportunities to comply and

[136] Statement of compatibility, p 12.
[137] This aspect of the changes involves amendments to the Jack's Law framework set out in the PPRA. Explanatory notes, pp 6-8; Department, written briefing, 10 March 2026, pp 4-5.

standard warnings. A failure to comply after being appropriately warned is an offence with a maximum penalty of 40 penalty units.[138]

- Name and address: Officers may require a person to state their correct name and address when a move-on direction is given to aid enforcement. [139]
- Police banning notices: Temporary bans, for a period of one month, which may be extended up to three months, may apply to DBCPs as well as licensed premises, SNPs, and event sites. This may occur in circumstances where the individual has breached a move-on direction within a precinct or has received one or more move-on directions in a precinct within a 7-day period, and where it is necessary because of the specified reasons, such as the person has behaved in a disorderly, offensive, threatening or violent way.[140]

As part of the reforms, the Bill also amends the PPRA to remove restrictions on individuals who may be the subject of a banning notice to include children.[141] A copy of the notice must be given to a parent, guardian, or the Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety, if relevant.[142]

The explanatory notes conclude that 'the framework enables police to address anti-social behaviours early, preventing escalation into more serious offending, in an effort to prevent continued public disorder and promote respectful use of shared spaces'.[143]

7.2. Inter-jurisdictional comparison of similar provisions in Australia

In its written briefing, the department provided information concerning what methods are being used in other Australian jurisdictions to deal with anti-social behaviour.[144]

7.3. Stakeholder submissions

There were a number of submitters who supported[145] the DBCP provisions in the Bill,

[138] Explanatory notes, pp 6-8; Department, written briefing, 10 March 2026, pp 4-5.
[139] Explanatory notes, pp 6-8; Department, written briefing, 10 March 2026, pp 4-5.
[140] In addition, the person's behaviour was at or near a relevant public place, and their ongoing presence at the relevant public place (and any other stated place) poses an unacceptable risk of the specified matters. The Bill also proposes that a police officer may give a police banning notice relating to a DBCP to a person if satisfied of the specified circumstances. Bill, cl 29 (PPRA, replaces s 602C). See also the Note in PPRA, new s 808D(1). See also explanatory notes, pp 6-8; Department, written briefing, 10 March 2026, pp 4-5.
[141] Explanatory notes, pp 6-8; Department, written briefing, 10 March 2026, pp 4-5.
[142] Department, written briefing, 10 March 2016, p 10.
[143] Explanatory notes, p 7.
[144] Department, written briefing, 10 March 2026, pp 11-13.
[145] For example, see Grazyna Czerwinska (submission 43), Hotel Grand Chancellor (submission 46), Jonathan Freeman (submission 63), Raymond Jacobs (submission 71), Sue Brooks (submission 74), Michelle Warren (submission 75), Thomas Law (submission 77), Christopher Dee (submission 78), Outback Instincts (submission 79), Les Sampson (submission 90), Moreton Bay City Council (submission 121), Cairns Regional Council (submission 132), Voice for Victims Foundation (submission 144), Robert Wilson (submission 163), Townsville City Council (submission 170), Shopping Centre Council of Australia (submission 172), Form A submissions (submission 178),

while a number of others raised concerns.[146]

A number of submitters supporting the Bill observed increases in anti-social behaviour in their local communities, with some submitters noting the effect of this on businesses.[147] For example, the Cairns Regional Council supported the intent of the Bill and recognised the importance of strengthened laws that allow police to proactively respond to disruptive public disorder offending, reduce impacts on public amenity and maintain the safety and functionality of shared public spaces. Data collected by the Cairns Regional Council demonstrated a sustained and concentrated pattern of public space anti-social behaviour within the Cairns CBD, with 33,300 incidents involving anti-social or disruptive behaviour being recorded between 2023 and 2025. These include alcohol-related disorder, assaults, threats, harassment, theft, begging, public drunkenness and disruptive group behaviour.[148] Based on this data:

> *Cairns Regional Council supports the establishment of a DBCP for the Cairns CBD based on strong, multi-year evidence of concentrated public space anti-social behaviour. The model provides a welcome step towards improved community safety and amenity within Cairns' most significant activity and visitor precincts.*[149]

Voice for Victims Foundation also supported the introduction of these precincts as a practical measure to strengthen community safety and reduce the risk of harm to members of the public consistent with the Government's focus and recent legislative reforms, including Jack's Law.[150]

The Sunshine Valley Gazette newspaper supported the Bill, which it found strikes an appropriate balance by not seeking to criminalise vulnerability, but seeking to address behaviour that impacts others and undermines shared community spaces.[151]

In its submission, AMAN recognised that business districts must remain safe and public

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Australia Retail Council (submission 180), Dennis Johnson JP (submission 182) and Birgit Machnitzke (submission 185).

146 For example, see Peter Hogg (submission 119), Queensland Advocacy for Inclusion (submission 123), QShelter (submission 140), YFS Legal (submission 141), The Salvation Army (submission 159), Sisters Inside Inc (submission 161), Office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner (submission 171), Queensland Council for Civil Liberties (submission 174), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) Ltd (submission 175), Legal Aid Queensland (submission176) and QLS (submission 184).

147 For example, see Grazyna Czerwinska (submission 43), Hotel Grand Chancellor (submission 46), Jonathan Freeman (submission 63), Raymond Jacobs (submission 71), Sue Brooks (submission 74), Michelle Warren (submission 75), Thomas Law (submission 77), Christopher Dee (submission 78), Outback Instincts (submission 79), Les Sampson (submission 90), Moreton Bay City Council (submission 121), Cairns Regional Council (submission 132), Voice for Victims Foundation (submission 144), Robert Wilson (submission 163), Townsville City Council (submission 170), Shopping Centre Council of Australia (submission 172), Form A submissions (submission 178), Australia Retail Council (submission 180), Dennis Johnson JP (submission 182) and Birgit Machnitzke (submission 185).

148 Submission 132, p 2.

149 Submission 132, p 3.

150 Submission 144, p 5.

151 Submission 138, p 1.

spaces must be welcoming. In terms of the implementation of the DBCP proposed under the Bill, AMAN recommended that, to ensure the framework remains both effective and fair, there should be regular community consultations, public reporting on outcomes and community advisory input.[152]

Some submitters raised that the enhanced police powers that will be available in a DBCP will disproportionately affect vulnerable persons, including First Nations peoples, persons experiencing homelessness, persons with disability and persons with mental illness.[153]

CQID also did not support the expansion of police enforcement powers due to concerns that these measures risk increasing justice system involvement for vulnerable children without addressing the structural drivers of youth offending.[154]

At the public hearings held in Brisbane, Nambour, Maryborough and Townsville,[155] most business representatives,[156] local government[157] and several community advocates[158] supported the proposed DBCP powers, particularly move-on directions and early police intervention. They argued that the powers were necessary to restore basic order in the CBD and parks, prevent escalation and rebuild confidence for workers, families and investors.

At the Nambour hearing, Nambour Now explained why the proposed DBCP powers are necessary:

> *Right now what we are seeing is that the system is broken and dysfunctional. Police are unable to act until a situation has already escalated. From our*

[152] Submission 1, pp 4-5.

[153] For example, see Abigail Permewan (submission 57), UN Youth Queensland (submission 97), Central Queensland Indigenous Development (submission 106), Peter Hogg (submission 119), QShelter (submission 140), YFS Legal (submission 141), Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (submission 147), Gladstone Region Autistic & Neurodivergent Network Inc (submission 148), Queensland Council of Social Service (submission 155), Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good (submission 157), Sisters Inside Inc (submission 161), Office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner (submission 171), Queensland Council for Civil Liberties (submission 174), Legal Aid Queensland (submission 176), Basic Rights Queensland (submission 183) and QLS (submission 184).

[154] Submission 106, p 1.

[155] See Public Hearing Transcripts, Brisbane, 27 March 2026; Nambour, 30 March 2026, Maryborough, 31 March 2026 and Townsville, 9 April 2026.

[156] For example, see Public Hearing Transcript, Brisbane, 27 March 2026, Shopping Centre Council of Australia (pp 13-15), Public Hearing Transcript, Nambour, 30 March 2026, Nambour Tramway Company (pp 4-7), I am Nambour (pp 15-19), Nambour Chamber of Commerce (pp 20-23) and Henzells Agency (representing Caloundra businesses) (pp 20-23); Public Hearing Transcript, Maryborough, 31 March 2026, House of Holabox/The Queens Development (Maryborough CBD) (pp 4-8), Maryborough Chamber of Commerce (pp 8-12) and Mary Ann Steam Train (pp 25-26); Public Hearing Transcript, Townsville, 9 April 2026, Townsville Chamber of Commerce (pp 5-8).

[157] For example, see Public Hearing Transcript, Nambour, 30 March 2026, Sunshine Coast Council (pp 1-4); Public Hearing Transcript, Maryborough, 31 March 2026, Fraser Coast Regional Council (pp 16-20) Public Hearing Transcript, Townsville, 9 April 2026, Townsville City Council (pp 1-4).

[158] For example, see Public Hearing Transcript, Brisbane, 27 March 2026; Voice for Victims Foundation (pp 9-12), Public Hearing Transcript, Nambour, 30 March 2026, Nambour Now (pp 8-12), and The Shack Community Centre (pp 12-15); Public Hearing Transcript, Maryborough, 31 March 2026, Mary Inc. (pp 12-14) Public Hearing Transcript, Townsville, 9 April 2026, Yumba-Meta Limited (pp 9-12).

> *experience, this is not working for the community or for the people in these environments.*[159]

At the Townsville hearing, representatives from the Townsville Shopping Centre commented how the shopping centre has experienced a sharp deterioration in safety, with customer surveys showing nearly half of patrons now feel unsafe due to escalating antisocial behaviour, particularly youth-related intimidation, theft, violence and drug activity concentrated in car parks, bus stops and common areas, which is driving customers away and placing staff, many of them minors, at risk. The Townsville Shopping Centre strongly supported expanded police move-on and banning powers as an essential tool to protect staff and customers, reduce repeat offending, and restore confidence in the centre as a safe place to work and shop.[160]

However, some witnesses at the hearings said that the powers risked displacement, inconsistent or subjective enforcement, and unintended harm to vulnerable people unless paired with clear safeguards, strong oversight, local consultation and mandatory wraparound services.[161]

7.4. Departmental response

In response to submitters who supported the Bill due to observed increases in anti-social behaviour in their local communities, the department noted that:

> *The Bill provides the framework for police to respond to increased anti-social behaviour through enhanced police powers, aiming to deter and manage disruptive behaviour, protect public safety and minimise impacts.*[162]

In response to concerns raised by submitters that the enhanced police powers that will be available in a DBCP will disproportionately affect vulnerable persons, the department stated that:

> *The QPS is committed to the continued delivery of a comprehensive suite of education and training packages across the State to promote a trauma informed, victim-centric policing capability. These existing training products are designed to enhance the knowledge and understanding of the plight of our vulnerable or at risk persons within the community.*
>
> *The QPS also has training teams that specialise in First Nations and Cultural Capability and Vulnerable Person groups. Their work is focused on the centralised design, development and delivery of ongoing First Nations and*

[159] See Public Hearing Transcript, Nambour, 30 March 2026, pp 8-9.
[160] See Public Hearing Transcript, Townsville, 9 April 2026, pp 17-20.
[161] See Public Hearing Transcript, Brisbane, 27 March 2026; Q Shelter (pp 24-27), QNADA (pp 16-19), Youth Advocacy Centre (pp 28-30) and QLS and BAQ (pp 20-23), Public Hearing Transcript, Nambour, 30 March 2026, Sunshine Coast Council (pp 3-4), Nambour Now (pp 9-11), The Shack Community Centre (pp 12-14) and Nambour Community Centre (pp 24-27); Public Hearing Transcript, Maryborough, 31 March 2026, Maryborough State High School (pp 2-4), Maryborough Chamber of Commerce (pp 9-12), Mary Inc. (pp 13-14) and Maryborough Ministers Fellowship (pp 24-25); Public Hearing Transcript, Townsville, 9 April 2026, Ms Lee-Anne Whalley (pp 13-16), Ms Suzanne Wales (pp 21-22) and Mr Adam McDonnell (pp 28-29).
[162] Letter dated 26 March 2026 from the Department to the committee, Attachment, p 19.

> *culturally and linguistically diverse and vulnerable person training for all QPS members Police Liaison Officer.*[163]

In response to concerns raised by some submitters about the expansion of police banning notices to DBCPs, the department explained:

> *Existing and strengthened safeguards will apply to police banning notices framework in DBCPs including clear requirements for explanation, defined duration limits, exemptions and senior officer approval thresholds to ensure the limitation is proportionate to the particular behaviour and support consistent police procedure for exclusions issued in relevant places, including DBCPs.*
>
> *A person issued a police banning notice in a DBCP will be entitled to make an application to the Commissioner for Police to amend or cancel the notice. A person may also make an application to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal for the review of applicable decisions made in relation to a notice. Under section 602E of the PPRA, police are required to explain to a respondent that they may apply to the Commissioner to amend or cancel the initial police banning notice. This requirement will continue to apply in relation to a police banning notice issued for a DBCP.*[164]

In response to concerns raised by some submitters regarding the accountability mechanisms to enable hand-held scanning operations to occur in DBCPs without senior police officer approval, the department said:

> *Police officers acting under Jack's Law are required to complete specific training in relation to the framework, which includes training to select persons to be scanned on a random basis. The existing safeguards that apply to the use of Jack's Law, under section 39H of the PPRA, will apply to hand held scanning operations in DBCPs. This includes the requirement that police must exercise the power in the least invasive way that is practicable in the circumstances.*[165]

7.5. Fundamental Legislative Principles

The explanatory notes set out a number of issues of fundamental legislative principles which arise in relation to the new DBCP under the Bill.[166]

7.5.1. Expansion of Jack's Law

The expansion of Jack's Law to enable police to use a hand-held scanner in a DBCP, without senior police officer authorisation, is potentially inconsistent with the fundamental legislative principles, particularly in regard to:

- breaches of rights and liberties of individuals through a potential interference with an individual's freedom of movement and right to privacy, and
- the principles of natural justice.[167]

[163] Letter dated 26 March 2026 from the Department to the committee, Attachment, p 20.
[164] Letter dated 26 March 2026 from the Department to the committee, Attachment, pp 21-2.
[165] Letter dated 26 March 2026 from the Department to the committee, Attachment, p 27.
[166] Explanatory notes, pp 9-11.
[167] LSA, ss 4(2)(a) and (b).

The explanatory notes state:

> *While it is acknowledged the power to conduct hand held scanning may interfere with individual rights, the non-invasive nature and quick duration of wanding and its focus on risk-based locations, such as a DBCP, the intrusion on individual rights is considered proportionate to the objective of preventing ongoing harm and public amenity impacts, and maintaining community safety.*[168]

7.5.2. Requirement to state name and address

The amendments enabling police to require a person to state their name and address may be seen as an interference with:

- personal liberty,[169] and
- in certain circumstances, may raise concerns about self-incrimination.[170]

The explanatory notes advise that this provision is consistent with fundamental legislative principles because:

- the information required is limited to basic identifying details and is intended only to support the proper administration of justice and community safety
- the measure operates in defined circumstances and is proportionate to the legitimate objective of facilitating lawful policing functions, and
- it is confined to the Bill and does not confer broad or undefined discretionary authority.[171]

The explanatory notes also provide that 'in this case, the power is limited, proportionate, and subject to clear conditions, ensuring it does not unduly infringe on individual rights and liberties by supporting legitimate law enforcement and public order objectives'.[172]

7.5.3. Move on directions and police banning notices

The Bill includes the following expanded exclusion responses to be utilised in a DBCP:

- a direction to move on from a DBCP and not return for up to 24 hours
- a banning notice where a person has satisfied existing criteria, and
- in circumstances where a person has contravened a move on direction in a DBCP or has received one move on direction in a DBCP in the past seven days.

In terms of fundamental legal principles, the expansion of exclusion powers available in a DBCP may impose a greater restriction on an individual's freedom of movement and

[168] Explanatory notes, p 11.
[169] LSA, section 4(2)(a).
[170] LSA, section 4(3)(f)).
[171] LSA, section 4(4)(a); explanatory notes, p 11.
[172] Explanatory notes, p 11.

personal liberty in these areas, potentially invoking breaches of rights and liberties of individuals.[173]

The explanatory notes state that 'the limitation is considered justified to provide an immediate response and deterrent to a person exhibiting disruptive behaviour that may be ongoing or repeated and provide immediate protection to members of the community'.[174]

7.5.4. Expansion of banning notices for children

The expansion of police banning notices so they can be issued to children may be seen as an interference with the rights and liberties of a child (section 4(2)(a)).

The explanatory notes state:

> *This limitation is considered justified as behaviour that is disorderly and violent, equally threatens the amenity of public places and community safety, whether committed by an adult or a child. A banning notice further provides an alternative to criminal proceedings against a child. The application of police banning notices to children is reasonable to achieve the policy intent and support police to respond to and disrupt anti-social behaviour committed by any person.*[175]

Committee comment

The committee is satisfied that the provisions of the Bill relating to the DBCP are consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

7.6. Human rights

The Bill limits a range of human rights as expressed in the HRA in relation to the new DBCP proposed under the Bill, including the following:

7.6.1. Nature of human rights

i. Freedom of movement

Every person lawfully within Queensland has the right to move freely within Queensland and to enter and leave it.[176] The Bill may limit freedom of movement because the amendments would empower a police officer to:

- stop a person and require them to submit to the use of a hand-held scanner, and
- issue move on directions and banning notices, which exclude a person from a DBCP for a stated period of time.

[173] LSA, section 4(2)(a); explanatory notes, p 11.
[174] Explanatory notes, p 11.
[175] Explanatory notes, p 11.
[176] HRA, s 19.

ii. Right to liberty and security of person

Every person has the right to liberty and security.[177] A person must not be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention or be deprived of the person's liberty except on grounds, and in accordance with procedures, established by law.[178] The right to liberty and security is limited if the arrest or detention (including its duration) is unjust, unreasonable or disproportionate to the aim of the offence.[179]

The Bill may limit the right to liberty and security because empowering a police officer, particularly without needing approval from a senior officer,[180] or a warrant, to use a hand-held scanner to scan a person, 'may be deemed to interfere with a person's dignity and bodily integrity'.[181]

iii. Protection of children's best interests

Every child has the right, without discrimination, to the protection that is needed by the child, and is in the child's best interests, because of being a child.[182]

The expansion of banning notices to children may represent a limitation of the protection of a child's best interests because a child would be able to be excluded from a DBCP for a stated period of time.[183]

iv. Right to privacy and reputation

A person has the right not to have the person's privacy, family, home or correspondence unlawfully or arbitrarily interfered with, and not to have the person's reputation unlawfully attacked.[184]

The Bill may limit the right to privacy and reputation because the amendments would:

- authorise police to require a person to state their correct name and address when a police officer is about to give, is giving, or has given a person a move on direction, and

[177] See HRA, s 29(1).
[178] See HRA, s 29(2), (3).
[179] Queensland Government, Guide: Nature and scope of the human rights protected in the Human Rights Act 2019, version 3, June 2025, p 121.
[180] The amendments to the Jack's Law framework in chapter 2, part 3A of the PPRA would provide police officers with powers to conduct hand held scanning in DBCPs without the current requirement to obtain prior approval from a senior police officer. In addition, the amendments remove the current obligation that hand held scanning can only be authorised in public places, that are not relevant places, for 12 hours, and where the authorising officer is satisfied the use of hand held scanners is likely to be effective to detect or deter the commission of an offence involving the possession or use of a knife or other weapon. explanatory notes, p 6.
[181] Statement of compatibility, p 14.
[182] HRA, s 26(2).
[183] Statement of compatibility, p 5.
[184] See HRA, s 25.

- expressly authorise hand-held scanning of individuals in DBCPs, which would likely increase the number of persons subjected to interactions with police and to scanning.

7.6.2. Analysis of human rights

It is possible that the limitation on the right to freedom of movement, caused by the stopping and scanning of a person, may advance the purpose of minimising the risk of physical harm caused by knife crime by locating and removing knives in the community.

A similar sentiment could be expressed in relation to the limitations on the right to freedom of movement associated with issuing move on directions and banning notices as it is possible the proposed amendments may advance the purpose of reducing the impact of anti-social behaviour on members of the public. This has the effect of preventing escalation of risky behaviour and reducing the number of engagements with the criminal justice system.

In addressing the impacts of the proposed hand held scanning amendments, the statement of compatibility asserts that the 'powers exercised are limited to a cohort of people who are within a legislatively defined relevant place'.[185] Further, that the scanning of the person 'can be completed in a short period of time and in a non-invasive manner'.[186]

Existing components of the Jack's Law framework would apply to the application of the proposed amendments and act as safeguards against interference with individuals. For example, a police officer is required to exercise their power under a hand-held scanner authority in the least invasive way that is practicable in the circumstances, and must only detain the person for so long as is reasonably necessary to exercise the power.[187]

In considering the impacts of the proposed move on direction amendments, including safeguards to balance against limitations of human rights, the statement of compatibility states that:

- the circumstances in which a police officer may consider a move on direction would remain unchanged
- police officers must explain their reasons for giving the direction
- police officers must warn a person in contravention of a direction that it is an offence to fail to comply with the direction and the person may be arrested for the offence, and[188]
- where a person contravenes a move on direction in a DBCP, the police would be required to warn the person that their behaviour may result in the person being

[185] Statement of compatibility, p 16.
[186] Statement of compatibility, p 16.
[187] See page 16 of the statement of compatibility for additional safeguards.
[188] PPRA, s 633.

given a police banning notice and give the person a further reasonable opportunity to comply with the direction.[189]

Although the exclusion period for a move on direction provided in a public place (other than a DBCP) would remain as 'a stated reasonable time of not more than 24 hours',[190] when a move on direction is provided in a DBCP, a police officer need not consider reasonableness in the circumstances.[191]

In considering the impacts of the proposed police banning notice amendments, including safeguards to balance against limitations of human rights, the statement of compatibility observes that:

- a person may apply to the Commissioner of Police for an internal review of the banning notice
- a person may apply to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal for an external review of the Commissioner's decision
- a police officer is required to explain the conditions of a police banning notice, explain the consequence of breaching the notice and inform the person of their ability to apply for an internal review
- a police officer must obtain the approval of a police officer of at least the rank of sergeant before issuing a banning notice to a person, and
- the Bill includes an expanded list of circumstances which are not considered to be contraventions of a police banning notice, such as, returning to an excluded area for the purpose of accessing support services and essential services.[192]

It is possible that the limitations on the right to liberty and security of a person, the protection of children's best interests, and the right to privacy and reputation resulting from the proposed amendments will go some way towards achieving their intended purposes.

The statement of compatibility argues that while informal warnings or referrals[193] are less restrictive measures, these options are 'already available to police when responding to children exhibiting anti-social behaviour and may be used where appropriate'.[194] Accordingly, the statement of compatibility contends that these measures are unlikely to achieve the purpose of the Bill as they may be 'insufficient in cases of repeated or serious behaviour'.[195]

[189] Statement of compatibility, pp 16-17.
[190] See PPRA, s 48(3).
[191] Statement of compatibility, p 16.
[192] Such as grocery stores and medical services. See page 17 of the statement of compatibility for more examples.
[193] Such as, referrals to support services or rehabilitation.
[194] Statement of compatibility, p 18.
[195] Statement of compatibility, p 18.

The statement of compatibility states that there are no less restrictive and reasonably available ways to enable police to obtain a person's correct name and address or to 'provide police officers with the flexibility to conduct hand-held scanning in designated public places'.[196]

Committee comment

Regarding the human rights aspects which arise in relation to the proposed introduction of the new DBCP framework, it is the committee's view that the Bill achieves a 'fair balance' between the specified purposes, such as, to minimise the risk of physical harm caused by knife crime, maintain community safety and address longstanding inefficiencies such that the Bill is compatible with human rights as expressed under the HRA.

[196] Statement of compatibility, p 18.

Appendix A – Existing Making Queensland Safer Laws

The various laws that make up the existing Making Queensland Safer Laws introduced by the Government are set out below:

1. *Making Queensland Safer Act 2024*

On 13 December 2024, the Legislative Assembly passed the first tranche of the MQS Laws, being the *Making Queensland Safer Act 2024* (MQS Act) which, among other things introduced the Adult Crime, Adult Time sentencing scheme into the Youth Justice Act for the following 13 specified offences under the Criminal Code.[197]

The Adult Crime, Adult Time sentencing scheme introduced by the MQS Act provides that young offenders convicted of prescribed offences are liable to be sentenced to the maximum, minimum and mandatory penalties as adults for the same offence.[198] This scheme currently applies to the following offences under the Criminal Code:[199]

***Making Queensland Safer Act 2025* (First tranche offences)**	
• Murder (sections 302, 305) • Manslaughter (sections 303, 310) • Unlawful striking causing death (section 314A) • Acts intended to cause grievous bodily harm and other malicious acts (section 317) • Grievous bodily harm (section 320) • Wounding (section 323) • Dangerous operation of a vehicle (section 328A)	• Serious assault (section 340) • Unlawful use or possession of motor vehicles, aircraft or vessels (section 408A) • Robbery (sections 409, 411) • Burglary (section 419) • Entering or being in premises and committing indictable offences (section 421) • Unlawful entry of vehicle for committing indictable offence (section 427).

2. *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Act 2025*

On 23 May 2025, the Legislative Assembly passed the second tranche of the MQS Laws being the *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Act 2025* which, among other things, inserted the following 20 new offences into section 175A of the Youth Justice Act:[200]

[197] Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024 (MQS Bill 2024), explanatory notes, pp 1-2.
[198] Explanatory notes, p 1.
[199] *Criminal Code Act 1899*, Schedule 1 (Criminal Code).
[200] Bill, cl 5 (amend s 175A, Youth Justice Act).

Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Act 2025	
Criminal Code	**Name of provision**
Section 69	Going armed so as to cause fear
Section 75	Threatening violence
Section 306	Attempt to murder
Section 307	Accessory after the fact to murder
Section 313(2)	Assaulting a pregnant person and killing, or doing grievous bodily harm to, or transmitting a serious disease to the unborn child
Section 320A	Torture
Section 328C	Damaging emergency vehicle when operating motor vehicle
Section 328D	Endangering police officer when driving motor vehicle
Section 349	Rape
Section 350	Attempt to commit rape
Section 351	Assault with intent to commit rape
Section 352	Sexual assault, if the circumstance in subsection (2) (involving any part of the mouth) or (3) (while armed, in company, or involving penetration) applies
Section 354	Kidnapping
Section 354A	Kidnapping for ransom
Section 355	Deprivation of liberty
Section 398	Stealing, if item 12 (a vehicle) or 14 (a firearm for use in another indictable offence) applies
Section 412	Attempted robbery, if the circumstance in subsection (2) (armed or in company) or (3) (armed and with violence) applies
Section 461	Arson
Section 462	Endangering particular property by fire
***Drugs Misuse Act 1986* (Drugs Misuse Act)**	
Section 5	Trafficking in dangerous drugs

These changes will have the effect of 'making young offenders liable to the same penalties as adults' for the relevant offences.[201]

3. *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Act 2026*

On 5 March 2028, the Legislative Assembly passed the *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Act 2026* which, among other things, expanded the list of offences under section 175A of the Youth Justice Act by including:[202]

Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Act 2026	
Act	**Name of provision**
New section 56A of the Weapons Act	Reckless discharge of weapon towards building or vehicle
New section 67A of the Weapons Act	Possession and distribution or blueprint material for manufacture of firearms

[201] Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceedings, 1 April 2025, p 648.

[202] *Fighting Antisemitism and Keeping Guns out of the Hands of Terrorists and Criminals Amendment Bill 2026,* explanatory notes, p 12. Note that this legislation also amends s 175A(1)(x) of the Youth Justice Act to replace item 14 (Stealing firearm for use in another indictable offence) with item 15 (Stealing firearm or ammunition) which involve section 398 of the Criminal Code due to the omission of item 14 and the increase in the maximum penalty for stealing a firearm.

Appendix B – Penalties for Adult Crime Adult Time offences in the Bill

Section (Criminal Code)	Offence (Criminal Code)	Current maximum penalty for youth offenders	Maximum penalty for youth offenders under ACAT
61	**Riot**		
	(1)(a) if the circumstance stated in paragraph (a) of the penalty for section 61(1) applies (offender causes grievous bodily harm to a person, causes an explosive substance to explode, or destroys or starts to destroy a building, vehicle or machinery).	10 years imprisonment or life imprisonment*	Life imprisonment
210	**Indecent treatment of children under 16**		
	(3) if the child is under the age of 12 years	7 years imprisonment	20 years imprisonment
	(4A) if the child is a person with an impairment of the mind	7 years imprisonment	20 years imprisonment
216	**Abuse of persons with an impairment of the mind**		
	(1) Engages or attempts to engage in unlawful penile intercourse with a person of an impairment of the mind	7 years imprisonment	14 years imprisonment
	(2) Unlawfully and indecently deals, procures to commit an indecent act, permits themselves to be indecently dealt with, exposes to an indecent act, exposes to any indecent object or film, videotape, audiotape, picture, photograph, printed or written matter, or takes any indecent photograph or records, any indecent visual image of a person with an impairment of the mind.	5 years imprisonment	10 years imprisonment
	(3)(a) If the person with impairment of the mind is not the lineal descendant of the offender but offender is the guardian or for the time being, has that person under the offender's care and engages in unlawful penile intercourse	10 years imprisonment or life imprisonment*	Life imprisonment
	(3)(b) If the person with impairment of the mind is not the lineal descendant of the offender but offender is the guardian or for the time being, has that person under the offender's care and attempts to engage in penile intercourse	10 years imprisonment or life imprisonment*	Life imprisonment
	(3)(c) If the person with impairment of the mind is not the lineal descendant of the offender but offender is the guardian or for the	7 years imprisonment	14 years imprisonment

	time being, has that person under the offender's care and commits an offence described in subsection (2)		
	(3A) If the person with the impairment of the mind is the offender's lineal descent and offender commits an offence in subsection (2)	7 years imprisonment	14 years imprisonment
309	**Conspiring to murder**	7 years imprisonment	14 years imprisonment
311	**Aiding suicide**	10 years imprisonment or life imprisonment*	Life imprisonment
315	**Disabling in order to commit indictable offence**	10 years imprisonment or life imprisonment*	Life imprisonment
315A	**Choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting**	3.5 years imprisonment	7 years imprisonment
316	**Stupefying in order to commit indictable offence**	10 years imprisonment or life imprisonment*	Life imprisonment
319	**Endangering the safety of a person in a vehicle with intent**	10 years imprisonment or life imprisonment*	Life imprisonment
322	**Administering poison with intent to harm**		
	(a) if the poison or other noxious thing endangers the life of, or does grievous bodily harm to the person	7 years imprisonment	14 years imprisonment
339	**Assaults occasioning bodily harm**		
	(2) if the offender publishes material on a social media platform or an online social network	4.5 years imprisonment	9 years imprisonment
	(3) if offender is or pretends to be armed with any dangerous or offensive weapon or Instrument or is in company	5 years imprisonment	10 years imprisonment
	(5) if the offender commits the offence with one of the circumstances of aggravation above and the circumstance of aggravation stated in section 52B applies (motivated to commit the offence by hatred or serious contempt for a person or group of persons)	5 years imprisonment	10 years imprisonment
359E	**Unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse**		
	(2) Simpliciter	2.5 years imprisonment	5 years imprisonment
	(3) if the person uses or intentionally threatens to use violence against anyone or their	3.5 years imprisonment	7 years imprisonment

	property, possesses a weapon, contravenes or intentionally threatens to contravene an injunction or order imposed or made by a court or tribunal		
	(5) if the acts are done when or because the stalked person is a law enforcement officer investigating the activities of a criminal organisation	5 years imprisonment	10 years imprisonment
	(7) if offender commits offence with circumstance of aggravation in section 52B (motivated to commit the offence by hatred or serious contempt for a person or group of persons)	3.5 years imprisonment	7 years imprisonment

*If the offence involves the commission of violence against a person and is particularly heinous.

Statutory provision (Criminal Code)	Offence	New child maximum penalty
535	Attempt to commit an Adult Crime Adult Time Offence	• Life imprisonment, if the relevant Adult Crime Adult Time offence is punishable by mandatory life imprisonment and no other punishment is provided • 14 years imprisonment, if the relevant Adult Crime Adult Time offence is punishable by life imprisonment (not mandatory) and no other punishment is provided • one-half of the maximum penalty for the relevant Adult Crime Adult Time offence, if none of the above apply and no other punishment is provided
541, 542	Conspiracy to commit an Adult Crime Adult Time offence	• For crimes: 7 years imprisonment, or if the greatest punishment to which a person convicted of the Adult Crime Adult Time offence in question is liable is less than 7 years imprisonment, then to such lesser punishment. • For other offences: 3 years imprisonment
544	Accessories after the fact to an Adult Crime Adult Time offence	• Life imprisonment, if the relevant Adult Crime Adult Time offence is punishable by mandatory life imprisonment and no other punishment is provided • 14 years imprisonment, if the relevant Adult Crime Adult Time offence is punishable by life imprisonment (not mandatory) and no other punishment is provided • one-half of the maximum penalty for the relevant Adult Crime Adult Time offence, if none of the above apply and no other punishment is provided

Appendix C – Submitters

Sub No.	Name / Organisation
1	Australian Multicultural Action Network Inc
2	Nigel Lewis
3	Richard Davies
4	David Hetherington
5	Tracy Mills
6	Nikita Maddren
7	Number not allocated
8	Karleah Watson
9	Kenna French
10	Number not allocated
11	Tim Robinson
12	Tamara Dyer
13	Number not allocated
14	Name Withheld
15	Name Withheld
16	Name Withheld
17	Confidential
18	Name Withheld
19	Number not allocated
20	Kathrine Eaves
21	Drug Free Australia
22	Matthew Skinner
23	Ross Berg
24	Peter Clark
25	Confidential
26	Lesley Agar
27	Name Withheld
28	Rhys Bosley
29	Name Withheld
30	Anold Mlambo
31	Wendy Clement
32	Name Withheld
33	Kimberly Doyle
34	Kevin Glen McLean
35	Peter Miller
36	Name Withheld
37	Name Withheld
38	Daryl Hemming
39	Maryborough Excelsior City Band
40	Name Withheld
41	Name Withheld
42	Name Withheld
43	Grazyna Czerwinska
44	Jason Wain
45	Name Withheld
46	Hotel Grand Chancellor
47	Rex Nordstrom
48	Confidential
49	Name Withheld
50	Name Withheld
51	Name Withheld
52	Confidential
53	Name Withheld
54	Name Withheld
55	Michael Gilligan
56	Number not allocated
57	Abigail Permewan
58	Tony Grimmond
59	Number not allocated
60	Confidential
61	Joseph Kristan
62	Name Withheld
63	Jonathan Freeman
64	Confidential
65	Confidential
66	Confidential
67	Confidential

68	Sharyn Milic
69	Name Withheld
70	Name Withheld
71	Raymond Jacobs
72	Daniel Gow
73	Name Withheld
74	Sue Brooks
75	Michelle Warren
76	Name Withheld
77	Tom's Law
78	Christopher Dee
79	Outback Instincts Ltd
80	Name Withheld
81	Name Withheld
82	Renee Dodd
83	Name Withheld
84	Brayden Kyte
85	Adam Head
86	Name Withheld
87	Ian Vary
88	Name Withheld
89	Name Withheld
90	Les Sampson
91	George Spice
92	Lina Lu
93	Tritan Carkeet
94	Number not allocated
95	Number not allocated
96	Number not allocated
97	UN Youth Queensland
98	Name Withheld
99	Confidential
100	Katija Wilkinson
101	Name Withheld
102	George Milford
103	Qld Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies (QNADA)
104	Mathilde Sormani
105	Maddison Cameron
106	Central Queensland Indigenous Development
107	Ji-hui Choi
108	Joel Allen
109	Name Withheld
110	Confidential
111	Name Withheld
112	Name Withheld
113	Shane Cuthbert
114	Confidential
115	AMA Queensland
116	Jackie Elston
117	Jie Wu
118	Number not allocated
119	Peter Hogg
120	QuIHN Ltd
121	Moreton Bay City Council
122	Kurbingui Youth and Family Development
123	Queensland Advocacy for Inclusion
124	Helen Tagg
125	Confidential
126	National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
127	Name Withheld
128	Mental Health Lived Experience Peak Queensland
129	Number not allocated
130	QuIVAA
131	David Bradley
132	Cairns Regional Council

133	Number not allocated
134	PeakCare
135	Drug ARM
136	Lyra Cafe
137	Australian Christian Lobby
138	Sunshine Valley Gazette newspaper
139	QUT Centre for Justice
140	Q Shelter
141	YFS Legal
142	Terry Baker
143	Youth Advocacy Centre
144	Voice for Victims Foundation
145	Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council
146	Office of the Victims' Commissioner
147	Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union
148	Gladstone Region Autistic & Neurodivergent Network Inc.
149	Les Graue
150	Anthony Sullivan
151	Office of the Information Commissioner
152	Health Consumers Queensland (HCQ)
153	Alcohol and Drug Foundation
154	Anglicare Southern Queensland
155	Queensland Council of Social Service
156	QATSICPP
157	Deadly Inspiring Youth Doing Good
158	Name Withheld
159	The Salvation Army
160	Chris Sanders
161	Sisters Inside Inc
162	David Gilmour
163	Robert Wilson
164	Name Withheld
165	Simon Craft
166	Carolyn O'Keefe
167	Melanie Wilson
168	Romeo Esangga
169	Christine Bennett
170	Townsville City Council
171	Office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner
172	Shopping Centre Council of Australia
173	Confidential
174	Queensland Council for Civil Liberties
175	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (Qld) Ltd
176	Legal Aid Queensland
177	Queensland Family and Child Commission
178	Form A or variation of Form A
179	Hub Community Legal
180	Australian Retail Council
181	Queensland Mental Health Commission
182	Dennis Johnson JP
183	Basic Rights Queensland
184	Queensland Law Society
185	Birgit Machnitzke
186	Bar Association of Queensland
187	Ben Howe
188	John Howe

Appendix D – Public Hearing, Brisbane, 27 March 2026

Organisations

Office of the Victims' Commissioner	
Ms Sarah Kay	Executive Director
Ms Wren Chadwick	Manager, Policy and Systemic Review
Ms Dimity Thoms	Director, Policy and Systemic Review
Drug Free Australia (by videoconference)	
Ms Josephine Baxter	Executive Director
Voice for Victims Foundation	
Ms Natalie Merlehan	Director and Victim Survivor
Ms Trudy Reading	Chief Advocacy Officer and Director
Shopping Centre Council of Australia (by videoconference)	
Mr Angus Nardi	Chief Executive
Mr Oliver Everett	Senior Advisor
Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies (QNADA)	
Ms Rebecca Lang	CEO
Ms Alysha Bleney	Director, Policy and Program
Queensland Law Society	
Mr Damien Bartholomew	Chair, Children's Law Committee
Ms Kristen Hodge	Co-Chair, First Nations Legal Policy Committee (by videoconference)
Bar Association of Queensland	
Ms Laura Reece KC	Deputy Chair, Criminal Law Committee
Ms Kate Juhasz	Member, Criminal Law Committee
QShelter	
Ms Fiona Caniglia	CEO
Ms Maya Glassman	Policy and Strategic Engagement Lead
Youth Advocacy Centre	
Ms Katherine Hayes	CEO

Appendix E – Public Briefing, Brisbane, 27 March 2026

Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support

Mr Michael Drane	Acting Director-General
Ms Kate McMahon	Acting Senior Executive Director
Ms Hannah Boyd	Acting Director

Queensland Police Service

Mr John Tims	Deputy Commissioner
Ms Jessica Mudryk	Acting Director, Strategic Policy and Legislation Branch
Senior Sergeant Alexander Jackway	Acting Officer in Charge, Tactical Crime Squad, Fortitude Valley

Appendix F – Public Hearing, Nambour, 30 March 2026

Organisations

Sunshine Coast Council	
Mayor Rosanna Natoli	
Ms Jodie Fielding	Director Community Strengthening
Nambour Tramway Company	
Mr Peter Clark	Director and Vice-President
Mr Greg Rogerson	Chairman
Nambour Now Community Advocacy Group	
Mrs Helen Tagg	Chairperson
The Shack Community Centre	
Pastor Dale Dowler	
I am Nambour	
Ms Rhonda Billet	Chairperson
Nambour Chamber of Commerce	
Mr Brian Bugenhagen	Vice-President
Henzells Agency	
Ms Katherine Allan	General Manager
Nambour Community Centre	
Ms Ana Greenfield	Manager
Mr Peter Hogg	Community Development Coordinator

Community Statements

Ms Paula Jardine

Ms Jennifer Barker

Ms Emily Cooper

Mr Geoff Davey

Ms Emma Kill

Appendix G – Public Hearing, Maryborough, 31 March 2026

Individuals

Mr Simon Done	Principal, Maryborough State High School
Ms Michelle Warren	Founder, House of Holabox

Organisations

Maryborough Chamber of Commerce	
Ms Michelle Clunn	President
Fraser Coast Regional Council	
Mr Daniel Sanderson	Councillor
Mr Paul Truscott	Councillor

Community Statements

Ms Ann Morris	
Ms Tina Green	
Ms Sarah Reed	
Ms Carla Smith	
Ms Donna Smallwood	
Reverend Cameron Batkin	Maryborough Ministers Fellowship
Mr Warren McPherson	
Ms Leonie Shore	

Appendix H – Public Hearing, Townsville, 9 April 2026

Organisations

Townsville City Council	
Mayor Nick Dametto	
Townsville Chamber of Commerce	
Mr Kevin Booth	President
Yumba-Meta	
Ms Dushy Thangiah OAM	Chief Executive Officer
Ms Brenda Lucas	Manager, Dale Parker Place and Townsville Family Violence Support Service
Althea Projects	
Ms Lee-Anne Whalley	Service Operations Manager
Townsville Shopping Centre	
Ms Kelly Taylor-Smith	Centre Manager
Ms Kate Herrod	Retail Manager

Community Statements

Ms Suzanne Wales

Ms Christy Guinea

Ms Kirsty McDonald

Ms Carol Scott

Mr Harry Patel

Mr Craig Stack

Mr Michael Kopittke

Mr Adam McDonnell

Dr Alex Cvetanovic

Mr Tim Lindley

Statement of Reservation and Dissenting Report

QUEENSLAND LABOR OPPOSITION

Statement of Reservation

Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026

58TH PARLIAMENT

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands, seas, skies and waterways from across Queensland.

We pay our respect to the Elders, past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This artwork by The Hon Leeanne Enoch MP is called "The Power of Many" from her "Connections" series. It represents the paths we take to reach our goals and the many important and often powerful connections we make with each other along the way.

The Crisafulli LNP Government is back, back, back again.

Back changing their signature crime laws for a third time in a clear admission of failure, a clear admission that communities do not feel safer after 14 months of 'Adult Crime, Adult Time'.

The fact that the Crisafulli LNP Government has had to come slinking back into the Parliament is a damning indictment and clear proof that the Crisafulli LNP Government have no idea what they are doing.

However, the *Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026* (the Bill) does not just amend the Youth Justice Act. It also winds back Queensland's leading drug diversion laws and takes an iron fist to the most vulnerable in our communities.

Put simply, this Bill is clearly not based on expert advice; rather it is entirely based on misguided ideology. Ideology that has driven the Liberal National Party and conservative governments for years - of punitive action, of division and marginalisation and of making promises they can't keep.

The Queensland Labor Opposition believes that all Queenslanders have the right to be safe and to feel safe, at home and in their communities.

But laws alone will not solve the problem. There must be early intervention and crime prevention.

While the Crisafulli LNP Government has announced its commitment to 'gold standard early intervention', it appears to be all announcement and no action. Unless that action is to cut… just as they have to the Youth Crime Prevention Schools which have been axed before they even began.

The Queensland Labor Opposition stands on the side of victims, victim survivors and Queenslanders.

It's clear though that these laws do not have victims front of mind, given experts have exposed that the impact of these laws will only push victims of crime to the back of the criminal justice system queue.

Victims have been told by this Crisafulli LNP Government that they would fix crime and deliver consequences for actions. However, it is clearly the view of many Queenslanders that the laws already delivered by the Crisafulli LNP Government have not and will not deliver that.

Developing laws, programs and policies to support community safety is complex. It is not solved by a slogan, because words that rhyme do not stop crime.

ADULT CRIME, ADULT TIME - 3.0

> ***"However as appropriately acknowledged by counsel for the Attorney in submissions made to this Court, it is certainly <u>not</u> suggested that the effect of these amendments is that a child should be sentenced as an adult."***[1]

That's a quote from a judgment delivered by the Supreme Court of Queensland.

A judgment dismissing the Attorney-General's appeal against a sentence for a horrific crime that occurred in the Attorney's own electorate. The crime occurred weeks after Adult Crime, Adult Time was made law.

It is becoming increasingly evident that the Crisafulli LNP Government's slogans was just that – a stunt. It was never intended to treat children as adults. Instead, it was a clever tagline employed by a clever politician to win an election.

Ultimately, Queenslanders are taking notice.

[1] https://archive.sclqld.org.au/qjudgment/2026/QCA26-031.pdf (Page 20)

Worse still, the positive trends that began under the previous Labor Government, are beginning to falter under the current Crisafulli LNP Government. Contrary to the Crisafulli LNP Government's stated claim that "Adult Crime, Adult Time" has "turned the tide" on offending, the actual data tells a starkly different story.

The Queensland Police Service published victims' data also clearly shows that the former Labor Government had already turned the tide on offending, with an almost 11 per cent reduction in trend between 2023 and 2024, based on raw numbers.

This progress has significantly slowed under the Crisafulli LNP Government in the 2025 calendar year, with a less than five per cent reduction.

In her introductory speech, the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support listed a number of uncited figures to claim that the government's slick slogans were working.

The below data published this week by the Queensland Police Service, shows exactly why Queenslanders don't feel safe in their homes under this Crisafulli LNP Government. It shows that the Crisafulli LNP Government is detached from reality and is blind to the truth of what Queenslanders are feeling right now.

Statewide QPS Reported Offence Data – *March 2025* vs *March 2026*[2]			
Offence	**March 2025** (offences)	**March 2026** (offences)	**Change**
Homicide	1	6	↑ 500%
Robbery	181	238	↑ 31.49%
Other Offences Against the Person	817	880	↑ 7.71%
Unlawful Entry	3531	3714	↑ 5.18%
Other Property Damage	3558	3718	↑ 4.50%
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle	1596	1811	↑13.47%
Other Theft	11248	13772	↑ 22%
Drug Offences	6501	7558	↑ 16.26%
Breach of Domestic Violence Protection Order	5995	6252	↑ 4.29%
Trespassing and Vagrancy	737	829	↑ 12.48%
Weapons Act Offences	744	929	↑ 24.87%
Good Order Offences	3221	3745	↑ 16.27%
Traffic Related Offences	3723	3931	↑ 5.59%
TOTAL Reported Offences	**51927**	**56192**	**↑ 8.21%**
Statewide QPS Reported Victims Data– *March 2025* vs *March 2026*[3]			
Offence	**March 2025** (Victims)	**March 2026** (Victims)	**Change**
Homicide	1	6	↑ 500%
Robbery	160	201	↑ 25.63%
Other Offences Against the Person	737	754	↑ 2.31%
Unlawful Entry	3512	3694	↑ 5.18%
Unlawful Use of Motor Vehicle	1526	1754	↑14.94%

2, 3 https://www.police.qld.gov.au/maps-and-statistics

This is despite the creative crime accounting that has been reported not once, but twice[4]. And it puts into question any statistics cherry picked by the Crisafulli LNP Government.

How can Queenslanders trust the Crisafulli LNP Government when they have been caught fudging the figures, forcing the Premier to apologise on television for the removal of thousands of victims of crime from his publicly promoted police data.

Even if the Crisafulli LNP Government's claim was correct, and even if there was a shred of evidence presented to the parliamentary committee that demonstrated that the Adult Crime, Adult Time framework was working, the data presented **(see Attachment A)** by the Acting Director-General during the parliamentary committee briefing, clearly shows that there is no discernible trend or correlating an urgent need for the 12 additional offences contained in this Bill to be added to the Adult Crime, Adult Time framework.

This data shows that for five of the 12 offences, there have been almost no or less than five charges in the last 10-years, with only five of the 12 offences having a meaningful number of young people charged. Additionally, there has been no significant increase in the levels of offending among that cohort.

Put simply, the addition of these 12 offences to the ACAT framework will make no discernible difference to victim numbers.

Prior to this data being made available by the department, this exact issue was raised by multiple stakeholders through their submissions to the parliamentary committee inquiry, using the data that was available to them at the time.

In addition to the data presented to the committee, Youth Advocacy Centre submitted that seven of the 12 offences had no sentences in the last five years:

> ***"The Statement of Compatibility says that "the current situation with respect to youth crime in Queensland presents an exceptional crisis situation constituting a threat to public safety.***
>
> ***This is simply untrue, particularly in relation to the following offences, for which we can find no reported cases of children being sentenced in the last 5 years:***
>
> 1. ***Riot***
> 2. ***Abuse of persons with an impairment of the mind***
> 3. ***Conspiring to murder***
> 4. ***Aiding suicide***
> 5. ***Disabling in order to commit an indictable offence***
> 6. ***Stupefying in order to commit an indictable offence***
> 7. ***Administering poison with intent to harm."***

Further, the Bar Association of Queensland states in their submission:

> ***"…the Association notes that the list of 12 further offences includes offences that children would rarely, if ever, be prosecuted for committing, like riot, assisting suicide and conspiracy to murder. No data is provided in any of the briefing material to indicate the incidence of these offences or whether children are committing them."***

Additionally, at the public hearing, Youth Advocacy Centre Chief Executive Officer, Katherine Hayes stated:

> ***"First of all, the selection of offences makes no sense when you stand back and look at it. Like I said, if we take choking, suffocating or strangulation, if you were to take a step back and look at***

[4] https://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/qld-politics/police-logging-change-drives-huge-drop-in-child-domestic-violence-victim-stats/news-story/0adffd161c2b162b71568fa1d6bcf4dd

> ***that data, there are very few children but a huge number and an increasing number of adults. If you were to look at that problem in society and say, 'What are we going to do about it?' it just does not make sense to do what we are doing with adults, which is not working, to the very tiny number of kids who are offending. It makes no sense, for a start."***

Voice For Victims Foundation also raised concerns, stating in their submission:

> ***The expansion to include s.311 (aiding suicide) and s.316 (stupefying in order to commit indictable offence) raises important considerations for community understanding and transparency. The Statement of Compatibility does not provide sufficient explanation of the nature or scope of these offences***

The Crisafulli LNP Government also makes big motherhood statements and talks a big game about "rolled gold" early intervention but has failed to deliver while cutting key initiatives delivered under Labor out of spite.

In Townsville, the parliamentary committee heard from Ms Christy Guinea, a school leader and Townsville resident who stated, with reference to promises made by the LNP Government during the last round of "Adult Crime, Adult Time":

> ***I accepted the statement I watched in anticipation for the programs that would see young people re-engaged in education and turning away from crime. Yet, following this comment, in September last year the Street University closed. It was a program that catered for young people who are not attending school. I know there was a crime prevention school planned for Townsville. Upon reading the newspaper today at 5 am, it seems that it is not going to get a start, despite it being over 12 months since it was promised to our Townsville community.***

Ms Guinea was referring to the Townsville Bulletin article "Youth crime plan hits wall" (**see Attachment B**) which revealed the Crisafulli LNP Government's flagship crime prevention schools, were going back to the drawing board.

Yet another failure from what many are calling a shambolic Crisafulli LNP Government.

ADULT CRIME, ADULT TIME - EXPERT LEGAL PANEL

It is the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition that the Crisafulli LNP Government have misled Queenslanders.

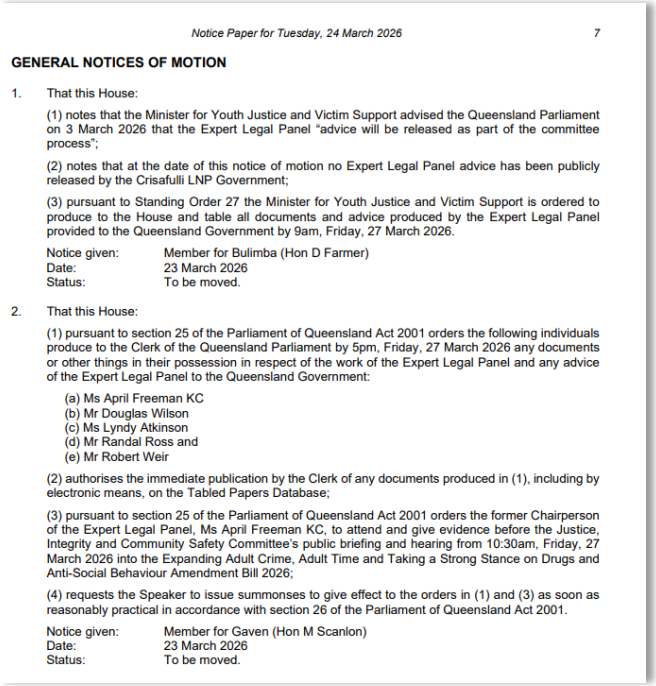
The Crisafulli LNP Government committed to releasing the Expert Legal Panel "advice", both in the media and the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament when the Bill was introduced, with Minister Gerber stating:

> ***The Expert Legal Panel was appointed for 12 months, with their term ending on 11 February 2026, and their advice will be released as part of the committee process.***

Well, the Crisafulli LNP Government did not release what many Queenslanders and even submitters would call "advice", despite reasonable attempts to obtain it prior to the committee's examination of the Bill. Likewise, the committee was unable to put questions directly to the Expert Legal Panel to answer Queenslanders questions.

The Queensland Labor Opposition wrote a letter to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support on 18 March 2026 **(see Attachment C)** and followed this letter up on 9 April 2026 **(see Attachment D)**, once it was apparent that a response would not be forthcoming from the Minister on behalf of the Crisafulli LNP Government.

Additionally, the Queensland Labor Opposition tried to move two motions (see below) in the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament, which the Crisafulli LNP Government used its majority to deny both of them being moved.



Notice Paper for Tuesday, 24 March 2026 7

GENERAL NOTICES OF MOTION

1. That this House:

(1) notes that the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support advised the Queensland Parliament on 3 March 2026 that the Expert Legal Panel "advice will be released as part of the committee process";

(2) notes that at the date of this notice of motion no Expert Legal Panel advice has been publicly released by the Crisafulli LNP Government;

(3) pursuant to Standing Order 27 the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support is ordered to produce to the House and table all documents and advice produced by the Expert Legal Panel provided to the Queensland Government by 9am, Friday, 27 March 2026.

Notice given: Member for Bulimba (Hon D Farmer)
Date: 23 March 2026
Status: To be moved.

2. That this House:

(1) pursuant to section 25 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 orders the following individuals produce to the Clerk of the Queensland Parliament by 5pm, Friday, 27 March 2026 any documents or other things in their possession in respect of the work of the Expert Legal Panel and any advice of the Expert Legal Panel to the Queensland Government:

(a) Ms April Freeman KC
(b) Mr Douglas Wilson
(c) Ms Lyndy Atkinson
(d) Mr Randal Ross and
(e) Mr Robert Weir

(2) authorises the immediate publication by the Clerk of any documents produced in (1), including by electronic means, on the Tabled Papers Database;

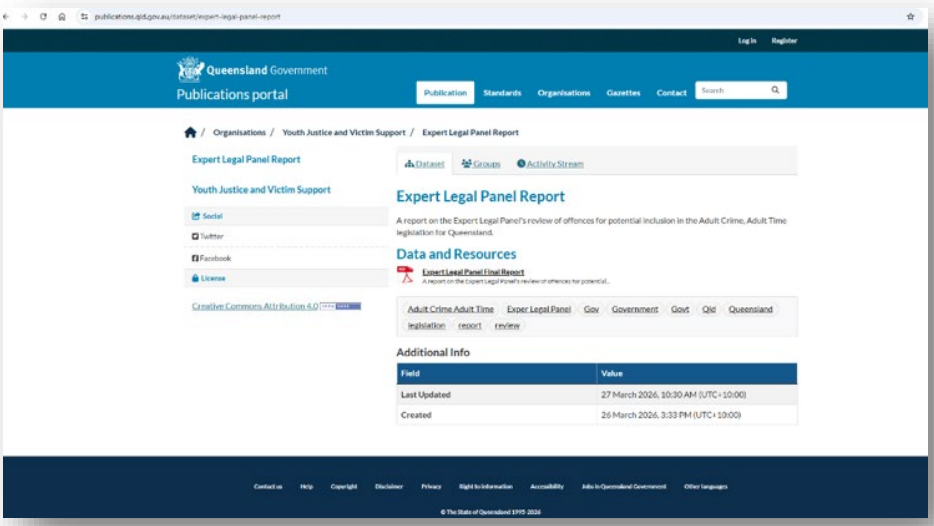
(3) pursuant to section 25 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 orders the former Chairperson of the Expert Legal Panel, Ms April Freeman KC, to attend and give evidence before the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee's public briefing and hearing from 10:30am, Friday, 27 March 2026 into the Expanding Adult Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026;

(4) requests the Speaker to issue summonses to give effect to the orders in (1) and (3) as soon as reasonably practical in accordance with section 26 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001.

Notice given: Member for Gaven (Hon M Scanlon)
Date: 23 March 2026
Status: To be moved.

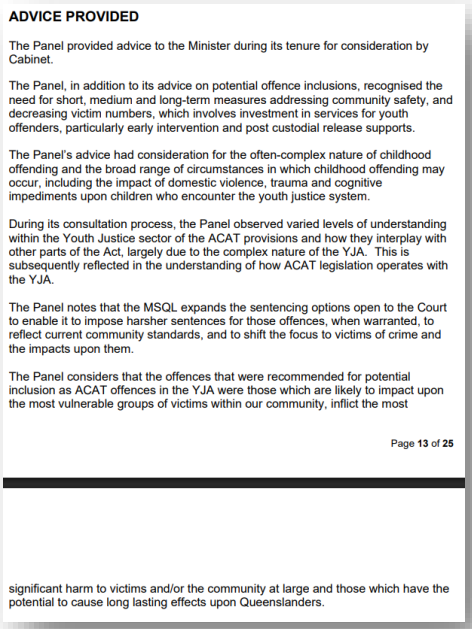
What ultimately occurred was a complete farce.

At the exact time that the parliamentary committee's public briefing with the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support and the Queensland Police Service was due to start, 10:30am on 27 March 2026 the Crisafulli LNP Government hit publish (as outlined in the screen shot below) on the "Expert Legal Panel Final Report" (Report) on the Queensland Government Publications Portal.



This document, which was published separate to the committee process, was clearly to Queenslanders not the actual advice the Expert Legal Panel provided to the Crisafulli LNP Government.

The Report does state that the Expert Legal Panel did provide advice to the Minister. Under a heading "Advice Provided", 258 words were used to outline that the Expert Legal Panel provided advice to the government but did not outline what that advice was.



ADVICE PROVIDED

The Panel provided advice to the Minister during its tenure for consideration by Cabinet.

The Panel, in addition to its advice on potential offence inclusions, recognised the need for short, medium and long-term measures addressing community safety, and decreasing victim numbers, which involves investment in services for youth offenders, particularly early intervention and post custodial release supports.

The Panel's advice had consideration for the often-complex nature of childhood offending and the broad range of circumstances in which childhood offending may occur, including the impact of domestic violence, trauma and cognitive impediments upon children who encounter the youth justice system.

During its consultation process, the Panel observed varied levels of understanding within the Youth Justice sector of the ACAT provisions and how they interplay with other parts of the Act, largely due to the complex nature of the YJA. This is subsequently reflected in the understanding of how ACAT legislation operates with the YJA.

The Panel notes that the MSQL expands the sentencing options open to the Court to enable it to impose harsher sentences for those offences, when warranted, to reflect current community standards, and to shift the focus to victims of crime and the impacts upon them.

The Panel considers that the offences that were recommended for potential inclusion as ACAT offences in the YJA were those which are likely to impact upon the most vulnerable groups of victims within our community, inflict the most

Page **13** of **25**

significant harm to victims and/or the community at large and those which have the potential to cause long lasting effects upon Queenslanders.

In short, the closest thing Queenslanders have to advice from the Expert Legal Panel, is a Report that outlines the procedural aspects of the Expert Legal Panel and states that advice was provided. Hardly "their advice" as promised by the Minister for Youth Justice.

Due to the inability of the Crisafulli LNP Government to release documents in a timely manner before hearings, the Shadow Minister for Youth Justice made the following statement and moved a motion in the public briefing:

> ***Ms FARMER:*** *Chair, it has just been brought to my attention that at 10.30 today, that is, at the beginning of the public hearings, the final report of the Expert Legal Panel has been published on the department's website—not even the extensive advice that the Expert Legal Panel provided. Queenslanders have had less than two weeks to make a submission to this committee.*
>
> ***CHAIR:*** *Do you have a question, member?*
>
> ***Ms FARMER:*** *I am about to move something, Chair. Queenslanders have had less than two weeks to make submissions—*
>
> ***CHAIR:*** *Member, this is not a time for debate. If you want to move a motion you may do that. If you would like to ask a question, you may do that.*
>
> ***Ms FARMER:*** *I will move a motion and then I have the right to actually speak to that motion. I move that the public briefing and public hearing of today are delayed until Friday, 27 March to*

enable this committee and Queenslanders and stakeholders to review the Expert Legal Panel's final report and also the full advice that we asked for, with all other hearings to be rescheduled. This report—

***CHAIR:** Member—*

***Ms FARMER:** I am entitled to speak.*

***CHAIR:** Member, we are moving to a private hearing. Please close the broadcast.*

Proceedings suspended from 10.50 am to 10.53 am.

While it should be noted that there was a misspeak during the hearing – the motion should have been to delay the briefing and hearing until the following Friday, unfortunately the formal outcome of the motion cannot be revealed, as the motion was considered in a private meeting of the committee. The public hearing on that day continued, so Queenslanders can draw their own conclusion.

The Bar Association of Queensland stated in the public hearing of the parliamentary committee, after having less than an hour to review the Report:

"Ms Reece: …What I will note is that it is apparent from reading the report that it is not, in fact, the advice that was provided to government. It is a report which states that advice was provided to cabinet and it appears to be a report which essentially describes a process and then refers to advice having been provided rather than demonstrating what the advice was. To that extent, there is still an element which is unknown.

However, it also needs to be observed that the task that was given to the panel was a very narrow one. They were not asked whether children should be subject to adult sentencing processes. They were asked, having already the rubric of the Adult Crime, Adult Time provisions, which were introduced under the Making Queensland Safer Act, to recommend additional offences under the Criminal Code. It appears from what we can see in the report that the way they have gone about that is to assess the elements of various offences and whether those offences could be said to be ones the commission of which would impact on either individuals or community safety or concerns.

Of course, the comment could be made that that is what the Criminal Code is—that it is actually there because of public safety and concerns with the conduct of individuals. But it does appear that that is the extent of the advice. They have not been asked to justify whether children should be sentenced in a certain way but simply to look at our existing criminal statute and say which offences are offences which would ordinarily be of concern to the community from a safety point of view.

What we also cannot see is any reference to data which backs up the need, for example, to punish a child for conspiracy to murder in a way that an adult might be punished. We cannot see any data which refers to the incidents of children committing the offence of assisting suicide. So it is not clear whether there was any requirement for these offences to be demonstrated as posing a real risk to the community as committed by children.

The brief review of the report that we have been able to conduct in the time that we have had it—which is about 45 minutes before we came into this hearing—really allows me to comment to that extent. What we can see, consistent with the government media statements at the time, is that the question framed was a narrow one and that that question has been answered in the way which is referred to on pages 13 and 14 of the report."

The appalling behaviour from the Crisafulli LNP Government and Minister for Youth Justice subsequent attempt to dismiss the lack of actual advice to the media, was better suited to an episode of "Utopia" (as was clearly evidenced by the ABC News reporting) than the real world, as evidenced on 7 News on Friday 27 March 2026, when the Minister for Youth Justice was quoted stating:

- ***"The advice is up on the website, umm you can, anyone can click on the link..."***
- ***"The information's been released, that's up on the website…"***
- ***"We've published the information that's up on the website…"***
- ***"The information's up on the website…"***

The Courier Mail also reported on this fiasco **(see Attachment E)** which reportedly stated:

> ***Anti-corruption barrister Geoffery Watson SC said the advice should not have been withheld as time was needed for debate to occur.***
>
> ***"To withhold the information until the last minute is just appalling", he said.***
>
> ***"If you look at this, the absence of advice within the document and the absence of a justification for these quite serious laws tells you one of two things.***
>
> ***"Either the panel didn't do its job or it wasn't given the right job to do.***
>
> ***"It's a faulty process which required correction".***

In addition, that same article stated:

> ***Bond University criminologist Terry Goldsworthy said the panel should have put forward why the offences were problematic In terms of prevalence or sentencing outcomes.***
>
> ***"They're the underpinning issues that drive adult crime, adult time", he said.***

The parliamentary committee process has reached its conclusion, and Queenslanders are none the wiser in terms of what advice was provided by the taxpayer funded Expert Legal Panel.

That same Courier Mail articled referenced above states ***"Ms Gerber said there was no further advice given to the government that has not been published"***, which the Queensland Labor Opposition and many stakeholders find highly unlikely.

It is understood that the Expert Legal Panel ran for 12 months, was led by an individual with links to the LNP and had nine meetings. The Minister for Youth Justice is wanting Queenslanders to believe that the only advice or information they provided to government was a 25-page report. That is farcical in the extreme.

As initially outlined in the 9 April 2026 letter **(see Attachment D),** it is understood that one of the former members of the Expert Legal Panel has been attending, now two community forums on Brisbane's southside, post the disbandment of the Expert Legal Panel. It stands to reason that if they are presenting themselves as voices of authority on the advice that informed the laws, then they should be willing, able and required to attend relevant parliamentary processes, which could have been facilitated by the Committee.

Sadly, in the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition, the Crisafulli LNP Government has taken Queenslanders for a ride and are treating them like fools by not being upfront and honest in fulfilling their commitment to release the Expert Legal Panel advice.

This is just another broken promise by the Crisafulli LNP Government who went to an election with slick slogans and no substance – trying to retrofit policy by media on the run, something that is clearly not working.

Without the Expert Legal Panel advice which has been championed as something that the Crisafulli LNP Government relied upon for their laws, being released, then it is hard for any person to fully understand how the laws were developed or have faith that they will work.

It should be noted that the late release of the so-called Expert Legal Panel "advice" document is not an isolated incident. The Crisafulli LNP Government has form for releasing significant documents at the 11th hour to limit the ability of journalists, the Queensland Labor Opposition and indeed all Queenslanders to scrutinise them before questions can be put to Ministers **(see Attachment F).**

The Crisafulli LNP Government should collectively hang their heads in shame.

REPEAL OF THE POLICE DRUG DIVERSION PROGRAM

"AMA Queensland condemns the government's decision to repeal the laws supporting the PDDP as dangerous and contrary to evidence.

In fact, the government has jettisoned the program when preliminary data indicated it was successfully reducing police costs and supporting patients and before it had sufficient time to be properly evaluated. This is a concerning feature of the Crisafulli Government's approach to life-saving programs, including pill testing, and we urge it to set aside ideology in favour of science."[5]

The above is a direct quote from the AMA Queensland submission. It is a damning assessment of the Crisafulli LNP Government and their decision to proceed with the repeal of the Police Drug Diversion Program, against all available, credible evidence.

The Queensland Labor Opposition strongly supports the views of the AMA Queensland and many other expert submitters in their opposition to the Crisafulli LNP Government's repeal of these laws. It is disappointing, but not surprising that the Crisafulli LNP Government has not listened to the experts, like they said they were going to do.

Let's be clear. This decision is purely ideological and follows the without grounds ban on pill testing in Queensland. As we will further outline below, the Crisafulli LNP Government is also wilfully dismissing and obstructing the Police Drug Diversion Programs proper evaluation.

In the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition and many Queenslanders these decisions are ultimately going to lead to worse health outcomes, wasted time and resources for both police and the courts. It also limits the opportunity for genuine rehabilitation opportunities.

We hold serious concerns that the increased workload to enact these laws will deviate police from other crime, like youth crime investigations, and domestic and family violence incidents.

The AMA Queensland submission would not, or at least should not have come as a surprise to the Crisafulli LNP Government, because it is understood the AMA Queensland, and their colleagues from across the sector, proactively tried to engage with the Crisafulli LNP Government in a constructive way on multiple occasions to avoid the circumstance we now find ourselves in.

Based on what is available on the public record, this engagement includes:

[5] https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/EACATTSSDA-7004/submissions/00000115.pdf

1. 20 December 2024 – A joint letter to the Premier[6]
2. 11 February 2025 – A meeting with the Police Minister, alongside representatives from the sector[7]
3. 14 February 2025 – A follow up joint letter to the Police Minister from the sector.[8]
4. 18 February 2025 – A further follow up letter to the Police Minister, directly from the AMA Queensland.[9]

The 20 December 2024 joint letter to the Premier included:

> The expansion of the program is widely supported by health and medical experts, legal groups and the Queensland Police Service. This diversion scheme prioritises the health and wellbeing of individuals and the community. Your party has recognised the importance of having clinicians taking leadership in matters related to health, and we want to reassure you that doctors, lawyers, drug workers and police all support the expanded diversion scheme.

The 14 February 2025 joint correspondence included:

> As leaders in medicine, law, nursing and the alcohol and other drug sector, we know the research proves diversion programs are the most effective way to get people the health treatment they need. But we also understand the public and the government need reassurance the program does not increase the risks of drug-related harms.
>
> We respectfully suggest the sensible middle-ground we discussed during the meeting is to review the program once it is evaluated in May 2026. The evaluation will be comprehensive and assess the program's effectiveness in delivering health interventions, cost-savings to police and the justice system and community safety. Once you have that information, you will be equipped to make a prudent decision about its future.

The 18 February 2025 letter from the AMA included:

> During the meeting, we discussed eligibility for the drug diversion program, specifically your enquiry regarding persons arrested with multiple other substances or with a criminal history of supply, trafficking or production. We confirm our advice to you in the meeting that people are **excluded** from the program in these circumstances.
>
> We reiterate our call for the program to continue until May 2026 when it is due to be comprehensively evaluated. That evaluation will give you the information you need to determine if the program is delivering effective health interventions and cost savings to police and the justice system while simultaneously maintaining community safety.

Concerningly, the 18 February 2025 correspondence indicates that the Police Minister may not have understood the legislation and program that he was responsible for.

To make things worse, in the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition and Queenslanders the Crisafulli LNP Government has since blatantly disregarded all expert advice from the sector, and proceeded with this element of the Bill, prior to the formal evaluation being completed.

REPEAL OF THE POLICE DRUG DIVERSION PROGRAM- WHAT THE DATA TELLS US

In the absence of data requested by the Queensland Labor Opposition in advance of the public briefings and hearings which will be outlined in more detail later in this Statement of Reservation, the Queensland Labor Opposition's sought important QPS data in relation to the Police Drug Diversion Program.

> ***Ms SCANLON:*** *Multiple submissions reference QPS data showing the majority of people had no further contact with police after a diversion warning. Who made the decision to omit that evidence*

[6] https://amaq.com.au/common/Uploaded%20files/Advocacy/Correspondence/2025Correspondence/241220_Joint_Letter_Drug_Diversion_241220_Redacted.pdf
[7] https://cabinet.qld.gov.au/ministers-portfolios/assets/diary/current/daniel-purdie/2025/february/daniel-purdie.pdf?v=639113786192949645
[8] https://amaq.com.au/common/Uploaded%20files/Advocacy/Correspondence/2025Correspondence/250214_AMAQ_QLS%20QNMU_QNADA_QuIVAA_ADF_letter_to_Min_Purdie_re_meeting_on_drug_diversion_Redacted.pdf
[9] https://amaq.com.au/common/Uploaded%20files/Advocacy/Correspondence/2025Correspondence/250218_AMAQ_to_Police_Min_re_drug_diversion_eligibility_Redacted.pdf

from the department's briefing note? Was there any request, suggestion or direction from the minister and ministerial office or the Crisafulli government that led to that evidence being excluded?

***Ms Mudryk:** There was no direction by the minister's office regarding the contents of the department's brief. Certainly, the department is an independent agency in this regard and our brief did reflect the information that we relied upon. There is obviously data regarding the QPS monitoring of who is engaging in the current drug diversion program. I do have that data available if you would like to speak to that. I can note that from 3 May 2024, which is when the expanded drug diversion commenced, to 24 March 2026 a total of 32,659 people were diverted under tiers 1, 2 and 3. Tier 1 represented about 58 per cent of that cohort, 18,881; tier 2 represented 12 per cent, 3,915; and tier 3 represented 30 per cent approximately so that is 9,863.*

It is noted that the departmental official stated that there was no direction from the Minister's office and not the Minister themselves, as was clearly included in the question asked. It is still unclear whether there was any involvement by Executive Government in the response.

Nonetheless, this data is consistent with independent analysis undertaken by stakeholders, as outlined in multiple submissions. **This data shows that there are positive signs for the drug diversion program and that it is potentially helping thousands of people every year.**

In fact, as outlined by QNADA in their submission:

> ***The majority of people provided with a Drug Diversion Warning had no further contact with the program (83%), with only 17% also accessing the initial Drug Diversion Assessment program.***

Additionally, publicly available data also shows the Crisafulli LNP Government is out of step with the community in its approach to this Bill. This includes a 2023 Alcohol and Drug Foundation survey of 6,123 people[10], which was undertaken following the introduction of the former Labor Government's Bill enabling the Police Drug Diversion Program, the results of which are outlined below.

Total support for non-criminal response to personal drug use

	Cannabis	'Ecstasy'	Heroin	Methamphetamine
Barron River	92.1%	81.5%	73.7%	67.2%
Broadwater	86.2%	70.0%	57.8%	57.8%
Maiwar	88.7%	86.9%	78.7%	73.8%
Cairns	91.6%	78.5%	67.1%	61.1%
Kawana	77.1%	76.7%	68.1%	69.3%
McConnel	94.9%	91.0%	86.9%	82.9%
Moggill	90.1%	78.3%	69.8%	64.9%
South Brisbane	88.8%	82.1%	78.5%	76.4%
Mundingburra	88.2%	73.8%	64.4%	60.6%
Townsville	83.3%	75.2%	67.2%	58.5%

This is also supported by the "*National Drug Strategy Household Survey 2022–2023: Attitudes and perceptions towards drugs by region"*. This survey found that 85% of people on the Gold Coast do not believe that possession of cannabis for personal use should be a criminal offence. This figure was 79% on the Sunshine Coast, and 77% in Townsville.

REPEAL OF THE POLICE DRUG DIVERSION PROGRAM - UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND EVALUATION

The Queensland Labor Opposition learned through stakeholders that the University of Queensland had been commissioned to undertake the evaluation of the Police Drug Diversion Program.

[10] https://adf.org.au/insights/support-for-drug-law-reform-in-qld/

What we now know is that a 44-page interim progress report was completed and kept hidden from Queenslanders. This led to the below line of questioning during the parliamentary committee briefing.

> ***Ms FARMER:*** *My question is to the deputy commissioner with reference to the evaluation by the University of Queensland of the police drug diversion program. I have several questions. How much funding did the QPS provide to UQ for this evaluation? Has the final report been cancelled and, if so, who decided that? Will you table the 44-page progress report referenced on the UQ website?*
>
> ***Deputy Commissioner Tims:*** *I will ask my colleague Jessica to answer that.*
>
> ***Ms Mudryk:*** *Unfortunately, I do not have the specific figures regarding the funding that has been provided to UQ for that particular report. The current status of the final report from UQ is undetermined at this time. Certainly there would need to be conversations regarding when that would be provided or if that would be provided, acknowledging that the current bill does propose to repeal the program. It was previously scheduled to be finalised around midyear this year. I do have a copy of the interim report, which I am able to table for the committee today.*
>
> ***Ms FARMER:*** *Could I ask for a response to the other question about the decision about the final report to be taken on notice? Has it been cancelled or has it not and the cost?*
>
> ***Ms Mudryk:*** *I can take those questions on notice.*

The early observations contained in the University of Queensland *"Progress Report: Independent Research and Evaluation of the Expanded Police Drug Diversion Program"* (Progress Report), tabled by the department after this line of questioning, states that:

> ***"Early document analyses show alignment of the PDDP with key strategic Queensland and national policy priorities."*** [11]

The Progress Report also makes it clear that this evaluation was very much in the early stages of its work, having only analysed 15 of the 50 documents that it has received to date, and also indicating that there was far more data and documentation yet to be received from the QPS, Queensland Health and the Department of Justice in the coming months.

Sadly, the Queensland Labor Opposition has learned that Queenslanders will never know what valuable insights this evaluation may have provided. The Departmental response to the Queensland Labor Opposition question, that was taken on notice is as below.

QPS Response:

The University of Queensland (UQ) was commissioned to undertake an independent two-year evaluation of the expanded Police Drug Diversion Program. The contract commenced on 14 May 2024 and was scheduled to end on 31 July 2026.

As of 4 February 2026, UQ has been provided $332,605 for their work on the review including the development of a progress report, which was tabled during the public briefing. On 18 February 2026, the decision to not proceed with the final evaluation report was approved by the Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service.

The view of the Queensland Labor Opposition and many stakeholders is that this is a disgraceful decision.

Not only has the Police Minister and the Crisafulli LNP Government introduced this Bill repealing the program prior to the evaluation period being completed, but they have also cancelled the evaluation, going entirely against the appeals of the experts in the field.

[11] https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/JICSC-CD82/EACATTSSDA-7004/Tabled%20Paper_QPS_UQ%20Progress%20Report%20on%20Police%20Drug%20Diversion%20Program_Friday%2027%20March%202026_Redacted.pdf

Not only have they wasted the time of researchers, but they have also wasted over $300,000 of taxpayers money, all because they knew it wouldn't suit their ideological narrative or any faux justification that they have to repeal this program.

REPEAL OF THE POLICE DRUG DIVERSION PROGRAM - CRISAFULLI LNP GOVERNMENT – "JUSTIFICATION"

In the absence of a formal evaluation of the Police Drug Diversion Program, or any available expert advice in support of its repeal, Queenslanders might wonder what possible evidence the Crisafulli LNP Government might refer to, to justify their decision?

Look no further than the Police Minister's Ministerial Statement on the day of the Bill's introduction:

> ***"…The latest Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission national wastewater report shows that drug use in Queensland is on the rise. In 2024, more methylamphetamine was consumed than in any other year; cocaine and heroin use is the highest it has ever been. Why?..."***

The Member for Nicklin asked Rebecca Lang from QNADA, an expert in the field for the answer to the Police Minister's question, during parliamentary committee hearings:

> ***"CHAIR:*** *With regard to Report 24—National Wastewater Drug Monitoring Program to August 2024, whilst I will not do a deep dive into the data, it reveals 22.2 tonnes of methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin and MDMA was consumed between August 2023 and August 2024 and that is a 34 per cent increase overall than the previous year. Would you accept that this evidence might suggest that as Australian states, including Queensland, have progressively relaxed the criminalisation of drug possession that drug use has increased dramatically in our community?*
>
> ***Ms Lang:*** *No. Wastewater analysis cannot be used to determine how many people use drugs or what the quantity is of a substance being consumed by an individual. All wastewater analysis can tell us is which drugs people are using based on the metabolites they find. They cannot tell the difference between heroin and prescribed opioids which get prescribed quite a lot in Queensland for post-surgical pain and chronic pain. It cannot tell the difference between medicinal cannabis and illicit cannabis. What wastewater can tell us is the general trend. It is useful for knowing that methamphetamine has made its way out into the regions, for instance. It cannot tell us anything about what the response to that should be. It also cannot account for differences in purity. You might see an increase in the metabolites. Is that because more people are using or the same number of people are using more, or is it just that we have a particularly pure batch of methamphetamine in circulation in that community? It is really important in our space to triangulate our data sources and never rely on any one data source to make decisions about whether we can see a trend one way or the other.*
>
> ***CHAIR:*** *I accept what you are saying there and possibly if it was a small percentage, but 34 per cent is quite a big increase; would you agree?*
>
> ***Ms Lang:*** *I do not want to get into the technical bit of it because I am not an epidemiologist, but my understanding is there is a lot of assumptions that go into what a dose is, for instance. They use that assumption on top of their assumption of what the likely metabolites mean in terms of the number of doses. That is the increase they are citing. If there was a 34 per cent increase in the number of people using methamphetamine, I would be 100 per cent with you on that is something we need to be super concerned about, but it could be that it is the same number of people using more often, which would again indicate a treatment response was more effective because that would indicate a dependent-using population. That is why we need to work together to understand what the data is telling us, and then what the response we deploy should be."*

Further, the Bar Association of Queensland addresses the Police Ministers reference to ACIC wastewater report in detail in their submission by directly citing the Report and its findings. Importantly, they outline that:

> ***…there is no cogent evidence within the Wastewater Report to create a link between the PDPP and a greater contribution to illicit drugs in the waterways. No statistics have been provided to demonstrate the levels of recidivism or escalation in the seriousness of DMA offences following a person exhausting their opportunities pursuant to the PDPP program.***

Again, all spin, no substance from this Crisafulli LNP Government.

REPEAL OF THE POLICE DRUG DIVERSION PROGRAM - POLICE AND COURT RESOURCES

The QPS asked the former Labor Government for this change.

They asked for it because it saves police time, it saves court time and leads to better health and community outcomes. That's why five former Police Commissioners backed the Police Drug Diversion Program when it was introduced.[12]

Then Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll stated:

> ***"We know this program works – as most people who complete their drug diversion appointment do not come to the attention of police again"***
>
> ***"The new reforms also align with all other jurisdictions, enabling our frontline officers to have more time focused on targeting drug manufacturers and traffickers domestically and internationally,"***

Former Police Commissioner Ian Stewart stated:

> ***"Expanding drug diversion in Queensland will free up police to concentrate on recidivist criminal offenders, and those who profit from the tragedy of drug addiction particularly among our youth.***
>
> ***"Expanding drug diversion is not about going soft on crime. Just the opposite. It is a way of offering real hope to those caught up in drug use and providing a proven pathway to better personal wellbeing away from the criminal justice spiral."***

Former Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson stated:

> ***"There have been many young people who have obtained a criminal history only because of the possession of a small quantity of illegal drugs for personal use who would never otherwise have been in the criminal justice system.***
>
> ***"This initiative provides a sensible and beneficial option in that regard.***
>
> ***"Our response to illegal drug use should have as many options as possible - this doesn't mean they get off but that they have chances to make better choices."***

Former Police Commissioner Jim O'Sullivan stated:

> ***"I strongly support any measure that might successfully divert young people from the court system and potentially give them a chance in life.***
>
> ***"Such measures have my strong support."***

[12] https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/97611

Former Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mick Palmer stated:

> ***"I welcome the government's decision to implement a diversionary approach to the use and possession of drugs.***
>
> ***"For far too many years otherwise law-abiding and decent young men and women have suffered convictions for the simple use and possession of drugs where no other offence of any type has been involved.***
>
> ***"The convictions have not infrequently impacted very negatively on their career options and prospects and have quite frankly served no useful purpose, as the current levels of drug use continue to show.***
>
> ***"If we hope to be successful in dealing with drug related conduct and offences, we need to start focusing far more strongly on the causes rather than just the symptoms, and the more options that are available to governments and police, the better the prospects of success or improvement are likely to be."***

The Crisafulli LNP Government claims that they will listen to the experts and give the police the laws that they need - this Bill is doing the opposite. The evidence shows that the Police Drug Diversion Program has and will continue to save police time. Not only this, but the evidence shows that the removal of the Police Drug Diversion Program will result in more people going before the courts, most likely sending victims to the back of the line of the justice system.

Queensland Network of Alcohol and Other Drugs Agencies Ltd. stated in their submission:

> ***"By ensuring that Queensland's diversion framework reflects community expectations, and is better informed by the evidence, there is an opportunity to improve health and wellbeing for Queensland families and communities, make substantial budget savings and ensure police resources are appropriately allocated to keeping the community safe from serious and violent crime."***
> …
> ***"The proposed amendments also represent a significant burden to police, with it being acknowledged in the explanatory notes that delivering the new diversion framework will incur additional costs to support technical system upgrades, roll out to police officers, and to operationalise the new police infringement notices. Officers will also be required to arrange appointments for eligible persons when issuing a cannabis diversion agreement, which could be completed by the person online at a more convenient time.***
> ***While these additional costs are intended to be accommodated through existing budget processes, this fails to recognise the resourcing impacts on officers' time, and the associated impact on their capacity to respond to other more serious calls for service. This is particularly problematic in an environment where the Queensland Police Service, and other jurisdictions are struggling to cope with.***
>
> ***Not only do some of the proposed amendments fail to meet the overarching current government priority of ensuring community safety, they are also disconnected from community expectations.***
>
> ***Put simply, reducing opportunities for diversion makes policing less effective, by requiring police to spend time and resources on low-level drug possession instead of more serious offending."***

The Alcohol and Drug Foundation stated in their submission:

> ***"In 2020-21, before diversion was introduced in Queensland, there were 35,000 police proceedings in relating to illicit drugs (mostly for minor possession) ADF is concerned that if diversion is limited, our police will spend more time processing low-level possession drug offences***

involving people who are unlikely to involved in more serious criminal activity, and less time responding to more serious crime that poses a greater threat to community safety.

ADF supports drug harm prevention, and crime prevention. We know from the evidence that criminal justice responses to low-level drug possession do not reduce drug use and harm. In contrast, diversion programs deliver better outcomes for both individuals and the broader community, including reduced offending and more contact with health services. This delivers two important benefits: individuals avoid the long-term harms associated with criminal justice involvement, and police can focus their time and resources on more important priorities."

Legal Aid Queensland stated in their submission:

"The expanded program has avoided approximately $4.58 million in Magistrates costs, and a further $2.27 million in police resources that would have otherwise been spent processing charges for drug possession. The full cost benefit of the expanded program is likely to be more significant when looking beyond simply salary costs for Magistrates and police, having regard to increased defendants appearing before the courts."

AMA Queensland outlined in their submission:

"The Queensland Police Service estimates that each diverted matter would save police up to 90 minutes for a plea of guilty or nine hours for a contested trial. Additional savings would flow for frontline officers from the reduced need to handle, transport, test and store drug exhibits to support a prosecution. Based on an assumption of 28,750 diversions per year, this is thought to equate to 258,000 police officer hours that could be re-invested into other police responsibilities."

In the 2023 parliamentary committee briefing for the *Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023*, which introduced the Police Drug Diversion Program, a Queensland Police Service then Acting Deputy Commissioner stated:

Importantly, diversion has operational benefits for police. It saves police and court resources and "time. It allows police resources to be focused in areas where they can have a greater impact on community safety."

…

"…we know there is a significant amount of time saved in that we do not have police going to court, preparing QP9 court briefs, full briefs of evidence, spending days in court to go and prosecute really minor drug matters. It is about looking at this from a therapeutic health perspective rather than an enforcement perspective. Police time is far better off diverted to investigating, identifying and arresting people who commit, produce, supply and traffic in drugs. In terms of the time saved, it is significant. We know when this extrapolates out across all of those drug types—so all illicit drugs—and having a three-tier approach to this, the time saving for police to be able to reinvest in areas where more significant harm is being done to the community is a massive benefit for not only the QPS but also the community…"

…

"… the people I have spoken to, including what I would call hardened detectives from areas that deal with drug offences regularly, see the benefits—not only that therapeutic and health intervention is a better approach but also that they can divert and devote their time to criminals who are supplying, producing and trafficking drugs."

and, in reference to the then existing cannabis diversion program

"Since 2001, as I mentioned in my introduction, some 158,000 people have been through that process. We found that over the four-year evaluation that was conducted 72 per cent of those

people did not go on to commit drug related offences. That is quite a large number of that cohort who did not go on to commit drug offences and also, importantly, did not waste valuable police time and court time by clogging up a system that is under pressure at times. Over the life of the cannabis program, if I can call it that, it has achieved, in our view, really positive results"

REPEAL OF THE POLICE DRUG DIVERSION PROGRAM - REAL WORLD IMPACTS

Perhaps the most tragic outcome of this change will be the countless missed opportunities for turning lives around.

Every time somebody is diverted from the criminal justice system for minor drug possession, where they are provided the opportunity to have a health focused response, it represents a chance for them to turn their life around, before it's too late.

The below case study provided by QuIVAA in their submission, puts this into stark focus:

Evidence from Lived Experience: 'John', 24-year-old male with substance dependence

In June 2024, John was searched at a train station and found in possession of a syringe and half a gram of heroin. He was offered drug diversion and, grateful to avoid a criminal charge, completed the required education and counselling.

Two months later, John was again found in possession of heroin and was offered a second diversion. During this session, an AOD Peer Support Worker provided information and referral to opioid dependence treatment (ODT), supported him to reenrol in his barbering course, and referred him to a 12 week structured Day Program with Lives Lived Well.

John's reflection: "Had I not been allowed three chances, a one-off drug diversion would've been like a tick and flick course. I'm now on Subby [suboxone] and doing an apprenticeship. I haven't used in over a year. I knew I had a problem and was just lucky diversion was available when I needed it - I have mates who are stuck in that life, in and out of jail. It could easily be me."

Commentary: John's experience highlights the importance of allowing multiple opportunities to access diversion. Substance dependence is a relapsing condition, and meaningful change often requires time, repeated engagement, and sustained support. Multiple chances enabled him to stabilise, access treatment, reconnect with education and achieve abstinence goals.

In the above circumstance under the Crisafulli LNP Government's proposed Illicit Drug Enforcement and Diversion Framework, the individual 'John' would not have been diverted on the second occasion, and additionally, may have elected to pay a PIN on the first occasion.

This is not an ideological game of political brinkmanship as the Crisafulli LNP Government is treating it.

This change will have devastating consequences for real people.

DESIGNATED BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY PRECINCTS

"They could go to a less-populated and less busy area than the city's CBD…[13]
LNP Member for Southport – 19 March 2026

[13] Page 3, Gold Coast Bulletin - Thursday 19 March 2026

The Minister for Youth Justice and Victims Support during her introductory speech stated: ***These precincts will be declared by regulation, in consultation with local government, where it is necessary to enhance public safety or public amenity, reduce antisocial behaviour occurring or reduce or prevent disruption in the area.***

Let's be very clear.

Fleeing domestic violence, is not anti-social.

Not being able to afford your rent, is not anti-social.

Not being able to make ends meet, is not anti-social.

Losing your job, is not anti-social.

Being kicked out of home by abusive parents, is not anti-social.

Suffering from mental illness, is not anti-social.

Being homeless, is not anti-social.

It is a concerning narrative emerging from this Crisafulli LNP Government, that cannot be ignored in this debate. While submitters have raised valid safety concerns that the Crisafulli LNP Government has an obligation to address, ultimately the worsening of the housing and homelessness crisis in Queensland is a direct result of the decisions and inaction of the Crisafulli LNP Government.

Decisions like, but not limited to, their refusal to review the Social Housing Eligibility Criteria and the reintroduction of the "Anti-social" Behaviour policy. This is just two examples of policy choices which are directly exacerbating this challenge, by the Crisafulli LNP Government.

This is a sentiment shared with stakeholders and the community, as evidenced in the public committee hearings.

> ***Ms Caniglia:*** *...However, we are very concerned that in the context of a deep and worsening housing crisis this bill risks responding to visible disadvantage with enforcement rather than addressing the underlying causes.*
>
> *In Queensland the number of people experiencing homelessness has more than doubled in recent years and there are 55,000 Queenslanders on the social housing register. For us, it is important to say that some people occupy public space not by choice. We are concerned that some populations may also be targeted including young people and people who identify as First Nations. The laws may risk empowering members of the public, who have a lower threshold for understanding the behaviours they are witnessing and therefore might invoke these laws in situations where it might not be warranted.*
>
> *We propose solutions that include a housing guarantee with support, particularly for vulnerable people, and the adoption of supportive housing targets additional to the 53½ thousand target for social housing. We also call upon the state to consider the retention of investment in immediate housing responses for the foreseeable future while the housing pipeline is achieved.*

When the Queensland Labor Opposition asked Q Shelter about the real-world impacts that Designated Business and Community Precincts would have this is how they responded:

> ***Ms SCANLON:*** *Thank you to Q Shelter for appearing today. The Queensland Police Service stated this morning that the expanded police powers are not seeking to target those who are vulnerable*

> *within the community or experiencing homelessness. Do you believe that will be the real-world impact of these laws?*
>
> ***Ms Caniglia:*** *Because homeless people sometimes have no option but to be in public space, I cannot see how that will not impact some homeless people.*

Ms Ana Greenfield from the Nambour Community Centre stated:

> ***Ms Greenfield:*** *… We know that exclusion does not resolve the underlying issue. We know that when we work with people slowly over time we see many positive changes in behaviour. When we exclude people, as we are unable to meet their complex needs through our centre…*
>
> **…**
>
> *Second—shifting the issue rather than resolving it—without clear pathways to assistance, these measures may shift people around rather than address the underlying issues driving the harmful behaviour. When a person is excluded from a precinct, where do they go and what support is available to them?*

This Bill, rather than addressing the causes of this crisis by providing the supports and resources needed, is trying to change the narrative to redefine what it means to be homeless, so that targeting them is more politically palatable for the Crisafulli LNP Government.

"Anti-social Behaviour" is just another one of the Crisafulli LNP Governments slick slogans, but this is one that is more nefarious and pervasive than others.

This Bill is not about giving police the powers they need, the police already have extensive powers to address real anti-social behaviour, and as the Queensland Law Society stated in the Public Hearing:

> ***Mr Bartholomew:*** *There are already, of course, many powers that exist for police in dealing with public spaces…. However, it is the view of the society that there are already sufficient powers to be able to regulate community and to be able to protect the community.*

This element of the Bill is about moving a problem that this LNP Government has created and failed to address. This Crisafulli LNP Government wants to hide it from public view.

There are also concerns being raised about how this concept will interact with recent court findings, as outlined in the Basic Rights Queensland submission:

> ***As the recent decision of Bobeldyk & Anor v Moreton Bay City Council; Eichin & Ors v Moreton Bay City Council [2026] QSC 27 highlights, proportionality under the HRA is paramount to protecting the rights of people experiencing homelessness. This is even more so where "homelessness has increased significantly recently, housing affordability stress has surged, the demand for services for homeless people far exceeds supply." We endorse Justice Smith's findings that: "when people are evicted from a public space this perpetuates a lack of connection and exclusion from broader society and it can add to isolation and stigma and creates fractures in society. If people are moved on without alternative accommodation the outcome is likely further hardship and the psychological toll can be severe."***
>
> ***The failure to consult on the DBCP provisions and the expansion of police powers beyond what is acceptable in other jurisdictions raises serious questions as to whether these extensions are reasonable and justifiable.***

This was further reenforced by Q Shelter in the public committee hearing:

> ***Ms SCANLON:*** *Are you aware of any legal implications on the proportionality of these designated precincts given individuals may be excluded for up to three months, which is significantly longer than any other state effectively? The court has warned in a recent decision against the Moreton Bay City Council saying—*
>
> > *If people are moved on without alternative accommodation, the outcome is likely further hardship and the psychological toll can be severe.*
>
> ***Ms Caniglia:*** *We do not think moving people on really works because it is not a sustainable result. What will happen with such long periods of exclusion is that perhaps people are more difficult to find and, in fact, the solutions are far more difficult to deliver through integrated responses. I commend the councils and the state and community services, many of whom are our members, who are doing integrated outreach to public space. We all have experienced the challenges of finding people to provide follow-up care. The other thing I think it will do is limit people's access to things that they need that are positive things. Sometimes people will go to a library, which will reduce impacts on other spaces. Sometimes people are looking to access a service or a health centre. Sometimes they just need to buy something. There are many fundamental things about life that may be really impacted by this. It is not a sustainable position. It does not help people in the medium to long term at all.*

Alarmingly, there is also no mention in the Bill of the additional wrap around services that will be needed for Designated Business and Community Precincts, which are heavily modelled on Safe Night Precincts. Safe Night Precincts have a significant amount of funding and resources allocated to them to ensure their effectiveness, something which is desperately undercooked in this plan.

The Queensland Labor Opposition asked the President of the Townsville Chamber of Commerce about this need during the parliamentary committee hearings, as below:

> ***Ms FARMER:*** *Kevin, this precinct model is based on the safe precincts model, which you have probably heard is operating in SEQ. One of the mandatory parts of that is that wraparound services have to be provided. Basically, whatever is causing them to behave the way they do, we all want the problems to be solved. The mandatory provision of wraparound services is not part of what is being proposed for these precincts here. Would you like to see the government committing to that so, in fact, the problems do get solved rather than moved somewhere else?*
>
> ***Mr Booth:*** *Absolutely. At the end of the day, it is not a silver bullet. From the business perspective, we understand this is going to take time, but it has also taken time to get to where we are. We have plenty of members who offer those sorts of services so we would definitely welcome whatever requirements are needed to be put in place. Much as the mayor said earlier, I do not think there is any business owner who is indifferent to the situation a lot of these people find themselves in.*

In fact, resourcing was a common theme throughout the public hearings. The Mayor of Sunshine Coast Council stated:

> ***Ms Natoli:*** *We would also ask that resourcing be considered. Council already carries considerable costs in this space, and if displacement puts extra pressure on our own resources—because people are gathering in other public spaces—then those costs will grow for council. We would ask that that be a consideration of this committee as well going forward—those resourcing implications for local government—and that there is a measure of success. Enforcement activity alone is not a measure of success. What we need to see is genuine sustained improvement.*

And Ms Ana Greenfield from the Nambour Community Centre stated:

> ***Ms Greenfield:*** *Of course we welcome them. The gap for us at the front line—while there is not housing on the ground, and it is such a gap—is the dignity services. We go on about a drop-in space. One critical point of conflict in our centre is the shower. We cannot be open for people to have a shower because we are under-resourced. When we say, 'Sorry, no showers,' that is a point of conflict. It escalates people who may not have had a shower for four days or over a long weekend and then they go out into the street angry and filthy dirty and walk around the street. So people are thinking, 'Look at these homeless people,' but the truth is that the services are not available in our town for them to clean themselves up. It is just not there. I cannot remember the collective number of hours that showers are available in Nambour. We are open 12 hours a week for people to have a shower. It is very limited and not all people come to us. If they turn up and they want a shower and they are filthy and we say, 'Sorry, come back in an hour,' they do not come back in an hour because it might have taken them three hours to get their mental health together to come in to want a shower.*

The Queensland Labor Opposition does not oppose the concept of Designated Business and Community Precincts in the right circumstances and acknowledges the impact of anti-social behaviour on communities.

However, ultimately, these laws are only before us because of the failures of this Crisafulli LNP Government. As such, in the absence of appropriate supports and resources, the Queensland Labor Opposition has serious reservations that Designated Business and Community Precincts will make things worse for the deepening homelessness crisis.

They will simply move Queensland's most vulnerable people, who desperately require access to support and services, into local neighbourhoods without any appropriate supports.

But that's what the Crisafulli LNP Government wants – out of sight, out of mind.

TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY

The Crisafulli LNP Government talked a big game on transparency and accountability when they were in Opposition, however when they walked across the chamber floor and moved from the Opposition Office to 1 William Street, they seemed to have left their quest for openness and transparency packed in a box.

Once again, this parliamentary committee process has shown that the LNP has no credibility.

In an effort to give the relevant departments as much notice as possible to compile the information needed for Queenslanders to better understand the proposed laws, the Queensland Labor Opposition in good faith wrote to the Acting Director-General of the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support and copied the correspondence to all relevant departmental heads **(see Attachment G)**.

A response from the Acting Director-General wrote back on the eve of the public briefing, declining to provide the information and referred to the parliamentary committee process.

It should be noted that the mere fact that a parliamentary committee is conducting an inquiry on a matter, does not preclude a government department from releasing information about various topics. Departments release information all the time, whether it is to journalists via their requests, via Right to Information or proactive release of Cabinet documents or the administrative release scheme.

The following exchange occurred during the public briefing:

> ***Ms SCANLON:*** *Acting Director-General, multiple submitters such as the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association have raised issues surrounding the impact of Adult Crime, Adult Time on access to justice, including court delays. I note the department's response says '... it is not clear how*

it might increase ... legal proceedings' despite there now being available over 12 months of data on existing Adult Crime, Adult Time offences.

The department is required to provide independent, fearless and frank advice to this committee, free from political consideration. In Queensland, this committee process is the only scrutiny because we do not have an upper house. We provided multiple questions a week and a half ago, including but not limited to—

***CHAIR:** Member, do you have a question for the committee?*

***Ms SCANLON:** I do. I am getting to that question, Chair. I table a copy of that letter that we provided. Criminal justice reform is incredibly serious and this committee cannot do its job—*

***CHAIR:** Member, I am sure the department is aware of their obligations to the committee. If you could get to your question, please. They are not here for a lecture on their requirements. They are fully aware of their requirements. If you have a question for the department, please put it; otherwise, I will move on.*

***Ms SCANLON:** My question to the department is: will you commit to taking these questions that were asked of the department in that letter on notice and provide full and timely answers?*

***Mr Drane:** I sent a response to that correspondence yesterday. Much of the request for information was beyond the scope of the department. In fact, much of the data in your request related to the portfolios of the Department of Justice, the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Housing and Public Works. Much of that data is not held by Youth Justice.*

***Ms SCANLON:** They are not appearing before this committee. You are here on behalf of the government.*

***CHAIR:** Member, I remind you that this correspondence is not from the committee. It is not a request from the committee to provide information to our inquiry. In terms of the questions, it is up to the chair to be diligent that they are relevant to the inquiry, and this is the first time I have seen this correspondence. I will allow the department to complete their answer with those things in mind.*

***Mr Drane:** Thank you, Chair. It is the case that the department's resources were focused on the concurrent inquiry into the bill which is before the committee. The response to the member clearly indicated that it would be more appropriate for that response to come via the chair of the committee, and we would seek that direction.*

***Ms SCANLON:** Point of order, Chair: given that response, I move that the department be required to answer all questions within that letter as questions on notice to this committee by Friday, 3 April 2026.*

***CHAIR:** A motion has been moved. We will have to vacate the room again.*

Proceedings suspended from 11.20 am to 11.24 am.

While it is noted that some of the information did not fall within the control of the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support, the letter was copied to all relevant Directors-General. Minister Gerber was the responsible Minister who introduced the Bill and as such, her department would have worked collaboratively with other departments on the legislation. In the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition, there was

nothing preventing the Acting Director-General responding to the Queensland Labor Opposition's letter or sourcing the information.

Standing Orders of the Queensland Parliament prevent the disclosure of committee business that occurs in private. However, Queenslanders are smart people and can deduce for themselves what occurred during that private meeting, due to the absence of any public answers to the questions asked by the Queensland Labor Opposition on behalf of Queenslanders.

This is just another example of many across the Crisafulli LNP Government of information being withheld and the LNP Government governing in secret. Queenslanders have also not seen past Cabinet documents related to Adult Crime, Adult Time laws because they have not been proactively released.

COMMITTEE PROCESS

This committee process is another prime example of how proper scrutiny of legislation is not being undertaken under the Crisafulli LNP Government. More time and more opportunities are required to hear from witnesses, submitted, departments and Queenslanders on the issues that matter to them. To truncate this process is a grave disservice to democracy in Queensland.

It is recommended that there are more public hearings and public briefings and that the department is made available to attend the parliamentary committee process at the start and end of the process. This will enable the committee and Queenslanders to be briefed ahead of submissions closing and also after to answer any questions.

The Queensland Labor Opposition does not agree with all the committee comments in the report and indeed the report lacks a number of relevant pieces of information and evidence which was provided during the committee hearings, briefings and submissions from stakeholders. Unfortunately, the Standing Orders of the parliament do not allow for the Queensland Labor Opposition to comment in full regarding what the Queensland Labor Opposition and many Queenslanders view as a shambolic process.

However, it should be noted for the benefit of all Queenslanders that the current parliamentary committee is made up of three Crisafulli LNP Government Members and three Non-Government Members, with the Chairperson which is a Crisafulli LNP Government Member having the casting vote.

For the avoidance of doubt, it should be stated that the Queensland Labor Opposition thanks the independent and hardworking officers of the Queensland Parliamentary Service in particular the committee secretariat and the Committee Secretary for their hard work and diligence in ensuring that Queenslanders can have their say on legislation which will affect them.

CONCLUSION

The Queensland Labor Opposition believes in strong robust and evidence-based laws that will work. We stand on the side of victims and victims' survivors in Queensland and want to see laws put in place that will keep Queenslanders safe.

The Queensland Labor Opposition holds serious reservations about the motives behind the *Expanding Adult* Crime, Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026 and its ability to effectively deliver the outcomes promised by the Crisafulli LNP Government.

The Queensland Labor Opposition holds concerns that the Adult Crime, Adult Time offences already legislated have not kept Queenslanders safe; Queenslanders are grappling with a spike in juvenile crime right across the state, especially in Far North Queensland.

Adding more offences, particularly those that have very few recorded convictions for juveniles is something that many Queenslanders are questioning. At the same time, the Bill seeks to further disadvantage those in

our community who are already feeling the pain of unrelenting affordability pressures, some of whom are simply seeking health, mental health or addiction supports.

This, along with the dismantling of critical drug diversion reforms that were implemented by the former Labor Government, will make the Bill difficult to support in its current form.

Drug Diversion laws were brought in after requests from police and health experts to treat first time drug use for what it is an opportunity to prevent escalation and commence rehabilitation. Instead, now those who would currently be referred for a health care response, will now be treated criminally.

This Bill speaks more to the ideological politics within the LNP, than it does to the priorities facing Queenslanders. It will do very little to keep Queensland communities safe and may in fact cause harm for some of the most vulnerable Queenslanders.

The Queensland Labor Opposition reserves the right to articulate further views through the second reading debate of the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE DI FARMER MP
MEMBER FOR BULIMBA
SHADOW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND THE EARLY YEARS
SHADOW MINISTER FOR YOUTH JUSTICE
ACTING DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE

THE HONOURABLE MEAGHAN SCANLON MP
MEMBER FOR GAVEN
SHADOW ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND SHADOW MINISTER FOR JUSTICE
SHADOW MINISTER FOR HOUSING, HOMLESSNESS AND HOME OWNERSHIP

On behalf of the Queensland Labor Opposition

ATTACHMENT A

Advice provided by the Acting Director-General of the Department of Youth Justice and Victims Support

Tabled by Michael Drake, DYJVS
At 11:13am
Date 27/3/26
Signature [redacted]

Data for ACAT offending 2015-2025

Distinct young people charged with an ACAT tranche 3 offence between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2025

Offence description and Criminal Code section	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Abuse of persons with an impairment of the mind (216)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	1
Administer poison with intent (322A)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Aiding suicide (311)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assault occasioning bodily harm where the offender publishes material on social media (339(2)) or is armed or in company (339(3))	163	163	191	266	318	259	309	312	350	348	323
Choking in a domestic setting (315)	0	1	1	5	8	11	14	19	14	20	9
Conspiring to murder (309)	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disabling to commit indictable offence (315)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Endangering the safety of a person in a vehicle with intent (319)	0	2	3	4	7	4	5	1	1	2	5
Indecent treatment of a child - under 12 or has impairment of the mind (210(3), 210(4A))	22	32	18	23	31	20	24	14	11	18	18
Riot - with grievous bodily harm, explosion or destroys building (61.1 A penalty)	0	0	19	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Stupefying to commit indictable offence (316)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful stalking, intimidation, harassment or abuse (359E)	10	9	17	15	20	9	21	15	29	37	15
Total[a]	194	206	244	331	385	285	364	354	393	404	342

Source: Performance Reporting and Analytics - Youth Justice, Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support
Request reference: YJ_3224

Notes:

1. Counts are of young people with a charge finalised in a court appearance occurring between 1 January and 31 December each year.
2. Excludes attempted and conspiracy/accessory offences except where this is an integral component of the offence (e.g. s309 Conspiring to commit murder).
3. Note that in February 2018, 17-year-olds transitioned to being treated under Youth Justice laws from being treated as adults. Comparisons to years before (orange) or during (green) this transition are not recommended.
(a) As a young person may commit multiple ACAT offences in the same year, the total number of young people charged with a tranche 3 offence is not equal to the sum of the numbers of young people charged with each individual offence in each year.

ATTACHMENT B

Townsville Bulletin Article dated 9 April 2026 regarding the Crisafulli LNP Government's failure to deliver Early Intervention programs that had been promised.

Youth crime plan hits wall

Claims flagship program to help at-risk teens has funding problem

Andrew McKaysmith

A cornerstone of the LNP's election commitment to curb youth crime could be in jeopardy, sources have revealed.

The state government's crime prevention schools initiative, which was specifically designed to target and re-engage youth who had disengaged from mainstream education, will no longer go ahead as promised, with sources revealing it wouldn't have achieved intended outcomes within the funding allocated.

The early intervention measure was pitched as a critical step in preventing at-risk kids from falling into a lifelong cycle of crime.

Internal correspondence seen by the Bulletin shows stakeholders to run a crime prevention school were knocked back because the program was going back to the drawing board. This comes as Queensland Treasury's Crime Report 2024-25 showed that 66,296 people were victims of offences against a person, with Townsville the region with the highest crime rate outside of the Outback.

Opposition youth justice spokeswoman Di Farmer said Premier David Crisafulli had promised "gold standard early intervention" but that was not being delivered.

"Because of that, young offenders continue to run rampant across Queensland, breaking into homes, holding knives to women's throats and stealing cars," he said.

"David Crisafulli has resorted to fudging the figures, his crime policies aren't working, Queenslanders don't feel any safer and the LNP continue to break promises".

On Sunday, a police car was allegedly stolen in Townsville while officers were trying to stop a stolen vehicle.

The government, however, is fiercely defending the program and its schedule. Youth Justice Minister Laura Gerber argued the crime prevention schools were "on track" to start enrolments in 2026.

This escalating political stoush stands in stark contrast to the ambitious launch of the program. In June 2025, the state budget allocated $50m for new crime prevention schools, with Townsville identified as a key location.

The schools were announced as part of a sweeping investment in community safety that also included a "Regional Reset program" for North Queensland to turn at-risk youth away from crime, alongside a massive $347.7m rollout of the Making Queensland Safer Laws.

At the time, Mr Crisafulli touted the initiative as a cornerstone of his agenda.

By August 2025 the government had officially called for expressions of interest to establish the specialised schools at Townsville, Ipswich and Rockhampton.

These facilities were slated to deliver specialised education for students in grades 7 to 12.

Modelled heavily after the successful Men of Business (MOB) Academy on the Gold Coast, they promised to provide structured environments combining tailored learning with life skills development to prepare at-risk students for employment.

Expressions of interest for the facilities officially closed in September 2025.

During the expressions of interest phase, North Queensland LNP members presented a unified, optimistic front.

Townsville MP Adam Baillie stated the program would "give at-risk kids the chance to turn their lives around".

Mundingburra MP Janelle Poole echoed this, saying the initiative was about "keeping kids in school and on the right path".

ATTACHMENT C

Letter to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support dated 18 March 2026 which remains unanswered

QUEENSLAND OPPOSITION

18 March 2026

The Hon Laura Gerber MP
Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support
Minister for Corrective Services
PO Box 15483
CITY EAST QLD 4002

VIA EMAIL: youthjusticeandvictimsupport@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

We write in respect of the *Expanding Adult Crime Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026* (Bill) which was introduced by yourself as the current Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Miniter for Corrective Services on 3 March 2026.

The Queensland Opposition values the important work undertaken via the parliamentary committee process to ensure that legislation which is considered by the Queensland Parliament is properly scrutinised on behalf of Queenslanders, ahead of its consideration.

To facilitate this, we write to respectfully request, in the interests of openness and transparency that you as the responsible Minister make available all unredacted, unedited advice provided by the Expert Legal Panel, referenced in your introductory speech during their tenure, including any recommendations made regarding the additional offences proposed under this Bill and all those previously added Adult Crime, Adult Time (ACAT) offences listed under section 175A of the *Youth Justice Act 1992*.

While the matters may have been considered by Cabinet, there are provisions for Ministers, with the agreement of the Premier as the Chairperson of the Cabinet to release materials in the public interest. In addition, the proactive release of Cabinet document scheme can be used to release information, after it has been considered by Cabinet.

It is time that the Crisafulli LNP Government let the sunshine in and release in full the advice that the Expert Legal Panel provided to the Crisafulli LNP Government, so Queenslanders can have the full picture of how these laws were developed and derived.

In addition, while it is noted that the Crisafulli LNP Government has disbanded the Expert Legal Panel, in the public interest the former members or the former Chairperson of that panel should attend the parliamentary committee public briefings. This can be facilitated by your government, by engaging them again briefly for the purposes of attending the hearing.

We look forward to your favourable consideration of this matter in the interests of openness and transparency.

Yours sincerely

THE HON MEAGHAN SCANLON MP
SHADOW ATTORNEY-GENERAL
SHADOW MINISTER FOR JUSTICE
SHADOW MINISTER FOR HOUSING,
HOMLESSNESS AND HOME OWNERSHIP

THE HON DI FARMER MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION
AND THE EARLY YEARS
SHADOW MINISTER FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

ATTACHMENT D

Follow up letter to the Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support dated 9 April 2026 which remains unanswered

QUEENSLAND OPPOSITION

9 April 2026

The Honourable Laura Gerber MP
Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support
Minister for Corrective Services
PO Box 15483
CITY EAST QLD 4002

VIA EMAIL: youthjusticeandvictimsupport@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Minister

We refer to our correspondence to you dated 18 March 2026 in respect of the *Expanding Adult Crime Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026* (Bill). It is noted that, to date, no response has been provided by you, which is disappointing.

Separate correspondence was sent to your third Director-General, who responded on the eve of the public briefing from the department on Thursday, 26 March 2026, declining to answer the questions posed and referred to the parliamentary committee process.

We note that during your introductory speech you stated: *"The Expert Legal Panel was appointed for 12 months, with their term ending on 11 February 2026, and their advice will be released as part of the committee process."* It is noted that no Expert Legal Panel advice has been provided to the parliamentary committee, but moments before the commencement of the public briefing on Friday, 27 March 2026 (at approximately 10:30am) a document was uploaded to the obscure "Publications Portal" entitled *"Expert Legal Panel Final Report"*.

The document contains a high-level summary of the work and a section called *"Advice Provided"*, which contains six paragraphs and 258 words. This section states *"the Panel provided advice to the Minister during its tenure for consideration by Cabinet"*, but it does not provide the advice provided by the Expert Legal Panel. This is contrary to the commitment you made in the media and within the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament that *"their advice will be released as part of the committee process"*.

The Bar Association of Queensland in their oral testimony to the parliamentary committee stated in respect of the released "advice" (emphasis added):

> *What I will note is that it is apparent from reading the report that it is not, in fact, the advice that was provided to government. It is a report which states that advice was provided to cabinet and it appears to be a report which essentially describes a process and then refers to advice having been provided rather than demonstrating what the advice was. To that extent, there is still an element which is unknown.*

There are many stakeholders calling for the advice of the Expert Legal Panel to be released, which was the commitment by yourself on behalf of the Crisafulli LNP Government. To not release the advice as you advised you would to the media and the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament is disingenuous and not consistent with open and transparent government.

During the last sitting of the Queensland Parliament, the Queensland Labor Opposition gave you and your LNP colleagues the opportunity to let the sunshine in:

- the first on a motion to require you to table all documents and advice produced by the Expert Legal Panel for the Queensland Government; and
- the second to compel the individuals who served on the Expert Legal Panel to provide evidence to the parliamentary committee.

Unfortunately, on both occasions, you and your Crisafulli LNP Government colleagues voted against openness and transparency. However, it is not too late.

The Queensland Labor Opposition reiterates our request for you to fulfil your commitment to release the advice provided by the Expert Legal Panel to the Crisafulli LNP Government in respect of their work during their tenure. Queenslanders have a right to know how their laws are developed and how they were formed and derived.

It is also noted that one of the members of the Expert Legal Panel recently attended a community forum in Bulimba, stating that they were a member of the Expert Legal Panel and giving the impression to community members that they were speaking with authority on various matters. As such, if members of the now disbanded Expert Legal Panel, who were remunerated by the taxpayer for their work, are holding themselves out in public forums as members of panel, then they should be required to attend a parliamentary committee to answer questions.

As such, we request that the Crisafulli LNP Government take all necessary steps to make available the former members of the Expert Legal Panel to the parliamentary committee to answer questions.

We look forward to your favourable consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely

THE HON MEAGHAN SCANLON MP
SHADOW ATTORNEY-GENERAL
SHADOW MINISTER FOR JUSTICE
SHADOW MINISTER FOR HOUSING, HOMLESSNESS AND HOME OWNERSHIP

THE HON DI FARMER MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND THE EARLY YEARS
SHADOW MINISTER FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

ATTACHMENT E
Courier Mail Article dated 28 March 20026 regarding Expert Legal Panel "Advice"

Experts in doubt on crime changes

Adult Time report released

Mikaela Mulveney
Taylah Fellows

The state government's flagship Adult Crime, Adult Time laws were enacted without serious legal consultation, according to some of Queensland's most senior criminal law experts.

Advice provided by a five-person expert legal panel tasked to inform what offences children should be sentenced as adults on was quietly published by the government on Friday after more than a year.

Experts and advocates were only given 45 minutes to scrutinise the advice before appearing in front of a committee to speak on the government's proposed third tranche – which includes 12 new offences such as conspiring to murder and aiding suicide.

Only 25 pages long, the report gives a broad overview of what the panel does and a framework they used for considering what offences should be included – largely focusing on the risk to the community and the seriousness of a crime.

Concerns have been raised by experts that without serious legal advice underpinning the laws, children will unfairly face harsh penalties such as life in prison for offences that are not prevalent among youth offenders.

A key example many pointed to in the new tranche was aiding suicide, which could potentially capture children bullying another classmate into killing themselves and spending the rest of their life in jail.

Anti-corruption barrister Geoffrey Watson SC said the advice should not have been withheld as time was needed for debate to occur.

"To withhold the information until the last minute is just appalling," he said.

"If you look at this, the absence of advice within the document and the absence of a justification for these quite serious laws tells you one of two things.

"Either the panel didn't do its job or it wasn't given the right job to do.

"It's a faulty process which requires correction."

Adult Crime, Adult Time was a key election promise that underpinned the LNP government's campaign to win the 2024 state election.

Premier David Crisafulli has banked his leadership on the number of victims falling by 2028 and has claimed new laws were already working with a 7 per cent drop in victim numbers.

Youth Justice Minister Laura Gerber has since said further changes to the laws were designed to pre-empt offending.

Queensland Bar Association deputy chair Laura Reece KC said the report does not demonstrate what the advice provided to government actually was.

"They've not been asked to justify whether children should be sentenced in a certain way, but to simply look at our existing criminal statute and say which offences are offences which would ordinarily be of concern to the community from a safety point of view," she said.

Bond University criminologist Terry Goldsworthy said the panel should have put forward why the offences were problematic in terms of prevalence or sentencing outcomes.

"They're the underpinning issues that drive adult crime, adult time," he said.

Shadow Attorney-General Meaghan Scanlon labelled the report "another broken promise". "Criminal justice reform is incredibly serious, and when our government hides the expert legal advice that supposedly justifies the laws that they want to bring in, that undermines confidence, it undermines scrutiny, and it undermines faith people should have in our democratic institutions," she said.

Ms Gerber said there was no further advice given to the government that has not been published.

"The information's been released, that's up on the website, that is the advice," she said.

Queensland Youth Justice Minister Laura Gerber in Parliament House. Picture: Dan Peled

> **Either the panel didn't do its job or it wasn't given the right job to do. It's a faulty process which requires correction**
>
> **Geoffrey Watson SC**
> Anti-corruption barrister

ATTACHMENT F
Courier Mail, Monday 13 April 2026 (Page 2)

Dump and burn: Govt ploy to skirt scrutiny?

compiled by Hayden Johnson, Taylah Fellows and Mikaela Mulvaney

GEORGE ST BEAT

There's a habit creeping into the Crisafulli government – the dumping of major reports before taking questions.

Attorney-General Deb Frecklington – who should be as transparent as the Glasshouse Theatre – dropped the 111-page Queensland Treasury Crime Report 2024-25 on Tuesday just 30 minutes before taking questions about it.

Ms Frecklington had the report to read over the Easter long weekend and insisted she didn't know why it had been publicly released so late.

"I'm unable to answer that question as to those technical details of why that happened," she said.

It may seem a bit inside baseball, but the ability for journalists to properly digest information and ask informed questions is critical to a healthy democracy.

We also recall the LNP criticising Labor for the practice while in government.

Now, Premier David Crisafulli's office doesn't seem to mind so much.

In the past five months, the government has released: The 458-page final report into construction productivity and its 40-page response, the 532-page Vine Review into puberty blockers for gender diverse children, the Wolston Park Hospital Review, In Plain Sight report and Prince Charles Hospital transplant services review — no more than half an hour before the minister took questions.

Centre for Public Integrity director Geoffrey Watson said it was a concerning pattern.

"It is a deliberate measure taken by the government and it's to deny scrutiny from external sources whether that's the opposition or the press," he said.

"I just can't think of an innocent explanation for this kind of conduct."

TAROOM OPTICS

Premiers usually take the government jet to Maryborough, which from Brisbane is just a three-hour drive.

Can you imagine our surprise, then, when Premier David Crisafulli's office revealed that he would drive the five hours and 20 minutes to Taroom on Wednesday to spruik the capability of the trough delivering a sovereign oil industry.

Perhaps it was optics, but Mr Crisafulli's decision to drive meant there was no journalist in person at the press conference the gallery had been told was of national significance.

One astute ABC reporter was allowed to dial in to ask questions for the Queensland press gallery.

Usually, a press conference of such significance would involve a few days of planning and an offer to the press gallery to join the Premier on a flight.

Credit to the Premier for making the trip into regional Queensland towns.

'I DO' CREW

Caloundra MP Kendall Moreton – now Hatcher – got married last weekend.

The Sunshine Coast MP shared photos of the event to social media and GSB couldn't help but notice two certain ministers who made the guest list.

Among the crowd packed on to Ms Hatcher's waterside back patio were Fiona Simpson and Brent Mickelberg – both sporting shades.

Congratulations to the happy couple!

TRACK TALK

Speaking of social media, lobbyist Peter Coulson and Opposition transport spokesman Bart Mellish were locked in a tidy little stoush on Facebook this week.

ATTACHMENT G

Letter in good faith to the Acting Director-General of the Department of Youth Justice and Victims Support requesting information to support the consideration of the proposed laws

QUEENSLAND OPPOSITION

18 March 2026

Mr Michael Drane
Acting Director-General
Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support

VIA EMAIL: directorgeneral@youthjustice.qld.gov.au

Dear Acting Director-General

We write to you as the lead Director-General for the *Expanding Adult Crime Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026* (Bill) which was introduced by the current Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Miniter for Corrective Services on 3 March 2026.

The Queensland Opposition values the important work undertaken via the parliamentary committee process to ensure that legislation which is considered by the Queensland Parliament is properly scrutinised on behalf of Queenslanders, ahead of its consideration. To facilitate this, we write to request that the following information and data be provided by relevant government departments to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee, ahead of the scheduled public briefing to support its consideration of the Bill.

YOUTH JUSTICE PROVISIONS

- All unredacted, unedited advice provided by the Expert Legal Panel (referenced in introductory speech) during their tenure, including any recommendations made regarding the additional offences proposed under this Bill and all those previously added Adult Crime, Adult Time (ACAT) offences listed under section 175A of the *Youth Justice Act 1992*.
- The total number of offences committed by juveniles and adults (listed separately) for the proposed new ACAT offences, separately by offence type and separately by month for the last 3 years.
- Regarding serious repeat offender declarations (referenced in introductory speech) made under s150A of the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, provide, separately by month, and separately by year for 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 (to date):
    a) the number of formal prosecution applications made (separately);
    b) the number of applications accepted by the courts (separately); and
    c) the number of applications rejected by the courts (separately).
- Regarding ACAT offences currently listed under s175A of the *Youth Justice Act 1992*:
    a) the percentage of guilty pleas and not-guilty pleas entered for these offence types in the 12-month period pre and post (listed separately) their addition to s175A of the *Youth Justice Act 1992* (or where relevant, pre the creation of the section);
    b) The average time taken before a matter was considered by the courts for the 12 months to 31 December 2024 and the 12 months from 1 January 2025, separately by period and separately by offence type.

DRUG PROVISIONS

- A copy of the independent research and evaluation report commissioned by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and undertaken by the University of Queensland, regarding the Police Drug Diversion Program (PDDP), including the 44-page progress report.
- The total number of participants in the PDDP since it commenced, broken down separately by each of the three tiers and separately by month and year.
- The total number of successful diversion program completions under the PDDP.
- Any modelling and/or analysis conducted regarding police time required to administer the proposed new Illicit Drug Enforcement and Diversion Framework, including required court briefs and materials, compared to the current PDDP system.
- All available analysis and data regarding time saved by frontline QPS officers since the commencement of the PDDP, including in relation to the preparation of court documents.
- All available analysis and data on the number of court appearances prevented and court time saved since the commencement of the PDDP.

DESIGNATED BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY PRECINCT PROVISIONS

- Any modelling or analysis undertaken to calculate the likely or possible impact on police and local government resourcing for the operationalisation of Designated Business and Community Precincts (DBCPs) and relevant provisions under the Bill.
- Any analysis or modelling undertaken regarding the additional resources required for police and local governments to support and manage the impacts to locations where individuals will relocate to, after an individual is moved on from a DBCP.
- Any detail on additional overtime budgetary allocations that will be provided to the QPS for the operationalisation of the DBCPs and its follow-on impacts.
- Any data or analysis undertaken by the Department of Housing and Public Works in relation to the impacts to crisis accommodation and/or support services on the potential impacts of DCBPs.

We appreciate that the above information requests might seem like a lot, but it is understood that this information would be kept and obtainable by well resourced government departments.

The Queensland Opposition thanks the independent public servants within the Queensland Public Sector for their ongoing and continued work on behalf of the people of Queensland.

Please do not hesitate to contact us, should you or your officers require any clarification on the above requests.

Yours sincerely

THE HON MEAGHAN SCANLON MP
SHADOW ATTORNEY-GENERAL
SHADOW MINISTER FOR JUSTICE
SHADOW MINISTER FOR HOUSING,
HOMLESSNESS AND HOME OWNERSHIP

THE HON DI FARMER MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR EDUCATION
AND THE EARLY YEARS
SHADOW MINISTER FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

cc

Mr Brett Pointing APM
Acting Commissioner
Queensland Police Service

Dr David Rosengren
Director-General
Queensland Health

Ms Sarah Cruickshank
Director-General
Department of Justice

Mr Mark Cridland
Director-General
Department of Housing and Public Works

16 April 2026

Queensland Greens Dissenting report

Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee Report on Inquiry into the *Expanding Adult Crime Adult Time and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Antisocial Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026*

The Queensland Greens oppose this Bill entirely - it is counter productive, has no basis in evidence, will make offending worse and make Queenslanders less safe.

This Bill will fill up our youth and adult prisons, make drug harms worse, make it harder for Police to do their jobs and push more young people into disadvantage.

At the outset of this report I wish to acknowledge the contributions of my fellow committee members while I was on bereavement leave and unable to fully participate in the public proceedings of this inquiry. I'm grateful for everyone's understanding and willingness to substitute for me at short notice.

Adult Crime, Adult Time is ineffective

The overwhelming evidence is that the detention of children drives higher recidivism and can lead to more serious offending, to such an extent that the government risks misleading the Parliament by claiming otherwise. Indeed, in Queensland we have a >90% recidivism rate within 1 year of leaving detention,[1] and data directly from the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support shows a 21% increase in serious offending in the 12 months after young people leave Cleveland Youth Detention Centre in Townsville.[2]

Curiously, there are a number of offences under the expanded Adult Crime, Adult Time provisions that seem to have nothing whatsoever to do with youth crime. Notably, based on data over the last decade, tabled by the Department at the public hearing:

- No children have been charged with aiding suicide or stupefying to commit an indictable offence;
- Only one child has been charged with administering poison with intent, but was not convicted;
- Only one child has been charged for disabling to commit an indictable offence, but was not convicted;
- Only two children have been charged for conspiring to murder, but neither was convicted; and

[1] Queensland Family and Child Commission (2024) *Exiting Youth Detention: Preventing crime by improving post-release support*. It is notable that the original web link for this report is now offline.
[2] See answer to Question on Notice No. 1177-2024.

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- Only five children have been charged with abuse of persons with an impairment of the mind.[3]

These figures hardly represent a compelling case for change. It seems to me patently obvious that these new Adult Crime Adult Time offences have been chosen on the basis of political posturing rather than a genuine desire to improve community safety.

No evidence for repealing successful drug diversion programs

Throughout the committee inquiry process, there were numerous health bodies, alcohol and other drug agencies, and legal experts who did not appear as witnesses at the hearing, despite having made written submissions to the inquiry and having appeared at previous, related inquiries on the drug diversion laws. Organisations who did not appear at the hearings, but who I believe could have provided very valuable additional evidence to the Committee on these issues, include the AMA Queensland, Queensland Nurses and Midwives Union, the Queensland Mental Health Commission, the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council, the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, QuIVAA, QuIHN, DrugARM, Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, Legal Aid Queensland, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, the Queensland Family and Child Commission, the Office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner, and Sisters Inside.

The following quote is from AMAQ's written submission to the committee:

> *"AMA Queensland condemns the government's decision to repeal the laws supporting the PDDP as dangerous and contrary to evidence. In fact, the government has jettisoned the program when preliminary data indicated it was successfully reducing police costs and supporting patients and before it had sufficient time to be properly evaluated. This is a concerning feature of the Crisafulli Government's approach to life-saving programs, including pill testing, and we urge it to set aside ideology in favour of science."*

I further note the extensive advice provided to the committee through the submissions process that there is a clear financial, social, medical and community benefit from the existing drug diversion program, and the lack of any evidence that the program should be repealed.

It is telling that during the public hearing on the bill, officers from QPS on the ground were unable to identify even a "frustration" that QPS have with the current program, much less any actual criticism.[4]

Expanding police powers under precincts changes

The proposed expansion of the Designated Business and Community precincts similarly lacks any evidence in favour of this significant expansion of police powers. I am particularly concerned that allowing police to do handheld scanning at any time will lead to more low level drug charges, as seen after the implementation of Jack's Law.[5]

Combining increased drug charges with repealing the drug diversion program will necessarily lead to increased pressure on police, courts, and the entire criminal justice system. Once again, this legislation compounds the problems with the State government's punitive responses to low-level drug use as well as chronic underfunding of public services and neglect of public spaces which might otherwise foster relationships of care and accountability between people. These intersecting issues reveal a troubling

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[3] ABC News 7 April 2026
[4] JICSC, Transcript of Public Briefing, Friday 27 March 2026, page 7
[5] In suspicionless searches police were four times more likely to charge a person with a drug possession offence than they were to charge someone with possession of a knife - see *Erratum 2023-24.01 to Queensland Police Service Annual Report 2023-24.*

pattern. Governments are increasingly resorting to locking people up as a “solution” for complex social problems, rather than investing in preventative, community-led and evidence-based alternatives. The long term consequence is increasing social dysfunction and crime.

The Bill in its current form is not based on sufficient evidence, and will make the community safety worse not better. The Bill should not be passed.

Michael Berkman
Greens MP for Maiwar