

## Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 120  
**Submitted by:** Women's Legal Service Queensland  
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**Submitter Comments:**

16 May 2024

**Re: Consultation on the Community Safety Bill 2024**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Bill. Given the limitations of time, WLSQ was not able to provide comprehensive feedback in relation to all aspects of the Bill. Included below are general observations and some specific comments in relation to the aspects of the Bill which relate to Domestic and Family Violence (DFV).

**General Observations**

WLSQ notes that many of the provisions have the stated purpose of reducing offending and increasing community safety. WLSQ is supportive of measures which are designed to improve the safety of women and children and increase accountability for those causing harm in the community.

It is critically important that any new measures which are introduced include appropriate safeguards and are evaluated to ensure that they are achieving the desired purpose.

**Weapons Safety**

The threat and/or use of weapons is prevalent in the context of domestic and family violence. WLSQ is supportive of the introduction of additional safeguards in relation to the sale of small arms ammunition and the introduction of a firearm prohibition order scheme.

**Service of documents**

WLSQ is supportive of changes to service of documents designed to improve efficiency and avoid unnecessary delays in domestic and family violence proceedings.

**Relevant relationship involving children**

WLSQ acknowledges the current anomaly in the DFVP Act which requires police officers to investigate complaints of DFV which ultimately can not result in the naming of an aggrieved or respondent as a result of the operation of section 22.

While we have no objection to the amendment to address this issue, we note that it is critically important that police continue to investigate complaints from or about children under the age of 18 under the appropriate alternate mechanism (for example the *Child Protection Act 1999*). While the DFVP Act may not provide an appropriate mechanism for intervention, the operational procedures associated with the investigation of DFV and a trauma and domestic violence informed approach ought to be adopted by the QPS in any investigation of violence, regardless of the legislative framework for intervention. WLSQ would encourage a review of the impact of this amendment to ensure that there are no unintended consequences of the change.

**Nomination of mention date for Police Protection Notice (PPN)**

WLSQ is conceptually supportive of flexibility to allow the nomination of a mention date for a PPN, noting that this will allow for more comprehensive material to be presented to the court and for victim-survivors to seek legal and other support prior to attending court.

We look forward to participating further in the development of changes to deliver greater safety for our community.

Yours sincerely,



**Nadia Bromley**

CEO

Women's Legal Service Queensland

