

## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL 2023

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**Submitter Comments:**



28 February 2023

Mr Linus Power MP  
Chair, Economics and Governance Committee  
Queensland Parliament

By email: Logan@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Power,

### **Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023**

We are writing with regards to the *Strengthening Community Safety Bill 2023*, which is currently being considered by the Economics and Governance Committee.

While we acknowledge the importance of keeping the community safe and addressing criminal behaviour, we have serious concerns about the human rights impacts of these proposed reforms. In particular, we note that the [Statement of compatibility](#) acknowledges that the Bill is incompatible with human rights and that, as a result, the [Statement about exceptional circumstances](#) excludes the *Human Rights Act 2019* entirely from the operation of these new provisions.

It is clear that the current approach of tougher sentencing and bail laws is not working to keep the community safe. Instead, we need alternative approaches that address the underlying causes of youth crime, with a focus on evidence-based prevention, early intervention and diversion programs.

Violating the human rights of young offenders does not equate to justice for victims of crime.

We are aware that submissions to the Economics and Governance Committee regarding this Bill closed on Friday 24 February, despite the Bill only being introduced to the Queensland Parliament on Tuesday 21 February. Given the significance of the human rights issues engaged, we were disappointed to see such a short period of time provided for submissions. As a result, we have been unable to provide a submission to the Committee.

Despite this, we wanted to ensure that the Committee was aware of our serious concerns regarding this Bill. We would be pleased to provide any further

Australian Human Rights Commission  
Human Rights Commissioner  
Lorraine Finlay

information that might be useful to the Committee, or to meet with you to discuss these issues in greater detail.

Yours sincerely



Anne Hollonds  
**National Children's Commissioner**



Lorraine Finlay  
**Human Rights Commissioner**



cc: Economics and Governance Committee Secretariat [egc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:egc@parliament.qld.gov.au)  
Mr Ray Stevens MP (Deputy Chair) [Mermaid.Beach@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:Mermaid.Beach@parliament.qld.gov.au)  
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