

DEFAMATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025

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**BAR ASSOCIATION
OF QUEENSLAND**

6 November 2025

Committee Secretary
Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

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

Dear Committee Secretary

Defamation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

The Association welcomes the *Defamation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (the Bill)*.

In 2018, the Council of Attorneys-General convened a Defamation Working Group to review the Model Provisions. Stage 1 of the review was conducted in 2019 approved in July 2020 and implemented in Queensland and other states on 1 July 2021. The Stage 1 Reforms established new statutory defences, strengthened the requirements around the provision of concerns notices, introduced a single publication rule, and, most importantly, created the element of serious harm.

Stage 2 of the review commenced in 202. Following public consultation, on 22 September 2023, the Standing Council of Attorneys-General approved further amendments to the Model Provisions. At this same meeting, a majority of the states and territories committed to using their 'best endeavours' to enact the Stage 2 Reforms by 1 July 2024.

The Stage 2 Defamation Reforms are encompassed in the amendments set out the Bill. Those amendments deal with for digital publications, digital intermediaries, and related reforms. They are already in place in New South Wales, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania, and the Northern Territory.

The amendments to the Act proposed by the Bill bring Queensland into line with the Model Defamation Provisions and the law in place across most of the country. The Association is pleased to support the Bill.

Yours faithfully

Cate Heyworth-Smith KC
President

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