

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

Submission No: 036

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Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name

When "adult crime, adult time" was first proposed, I felt relieved. My hometown used to be a place where families settled down and felt safe, but in recent years many residents have become increasingly concerned about rising crime and the lack of meaningful consequences for repeat youth offenders.

Every day there are new posts on our local community Facebook page about attempted break-ins, suspicious activity, stolen vehicles, or other property crimes. In many cases, residents share clear camera footage of the incidents, yet people often feel that little changes as a result. There are also frequent reports of school-aged youths involved in assaults, theft, and dangerous behaviour such as stealing cars and driving recklessly.

The consequences for victims can be significant. People struggle to get to work when their vehicles are stolen or damaged. Some experience financial hardship from repairing property damage or replacing stolen belongings. Others deal with ongoing stress and the loss of feeling safe in their own homes. In the worst cases, homes are destroyed through criminal acts such as arson. Local businesses are also affected, as repeated theft and vandalism place additional strain on already challenging operating conditions.

Many residents talk about how different the community used to feel. There was a time when people were comfortable leaving their doors unlocked while they were home, spending time with friends late into the evening, or catching a taxi home without feeling the need to constantly look over their shoulder when unlocking their front door.

The promise of "adult crime, adult time" was that it would restore confidence in the justice system and help improve community safety. However, from the perspective of many people in the community, we have yet to see meaningful change. The perception remains that repeat youth offenders are not facing consequences that effectively deter further criminal behaviour.

If the government is genuinely seeking community feedback, my view is that the intent of the legislation needs to be clearly reflected in outcomes. When serious offences occur, the community needs to see that the justice system responds with consequences that are consistent with the purpose of the law.

I am a 25yr old woman who has worked hard to build a stable life, including recently purchasing my first home. Like many others in my community, I want to feel safe where I live. I do not want to live in fear of break-ins, theft, or violence, and I do not want to see friends, neighbours, or other community members experiencing the same.

Community confidence in the justice system is essential. When people feel that laws designed to protect them are not being effectively implemented, frustration and anxiety continue to grow.

I hope the government takes these concerns seriously and ensures that legislation intended to improve community safety is implemented in a way that genuinely restores confidence and security for residents.