

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

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Across our local area, there is growing concern that public spaces are increasingly difficult for residents to safely and confidently use due to ongoing antisocial behaviour. This behaviour is often associated with individuals experiencing homelessness, rough sleeping, or illegal camping, and in many cases is compounded by alcohol and drug-related issues.

The impact on the community is significant.

It is particularly affecting elderly residents, who are less likely to feel safe in these environments, and young people and families, who are being deterred from using parks, walkways, and other shared spaces. These are places that should be welcoming, safe, and accessible to everyone.

At its core, this is not simply a compliance issue. It is a community safety and amenity issue, and it requires a balanced but effective response.

Current legislative and enforcement frameworks do not appear to provide the tools needed to achieve a long-term solution. While there are mechanisms to respond to incidents in the short term, there is limited capacity to prevent repeat behaviour in the same locations.

In particular, consideration should be given to:

Strengthening provisions that allow for exclusion or banning orders from specific public areas where repeated antisocial behaviour has occurred

Ensuring that penalties associated with these behaviours act as a meaningful deterrent, rather than a temporary interruption

Supporting enforcement agencies with clear and practical powers to respond to ongoing issues in high-impact locations

Any response must also recognise the complex social factors at play, including homelessness and addiction, and should be supported by appropriate pathways into services. However, this should not come at the expense of the broader community's ability to safely access and enjoy public spaces.

Our public areas are a defining feature of our community. They are where people connect, exercise, and enjoy the lifestyle our region is known for.

Residents expect that these spaces are safe, well-managed, and accessible to all.

I encourage the Committee to consider reforms that provide a more effective balance between support, accountability, and community safety, ensuring that public spaces can be confidently used by everyone.

Thank you for considering this submission.