

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

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I live in Nambour and am actively involved in the community through advocacy and ongoing engagement with residents, businesses, and both state and local government.

Over time, I have seen the growing impact of anti-social behaviour and drug-related issues in our town, particularly in the CBD. These are not isolated incidents. They are consistent and visible patterns that affect how safe people feel, how businesses operate, and how our community is perceived and experienced. I am also hearing from elderly residents who have lived here their entire lives and now say they no longer feel comfortable coming into parts of their own town. That is something we should take seriously.

When I was 17, I was violently assaulted in the street by someone drinking out the front of a shop. I was simply walking past. The reason given was that they did not like the way I walked. The person was intoxicated, paranoid, and well known to police as a repeat offender in that area. That experience has stayed with me and continues to shape how I see these issues. Through my community work, I continue to observe the same patterns. The same behaviours, the same individuals, and the same responses repeated over time without meaningful change. This is not just frustrating, it points to a system that is not effectively interrupting the cycle.

For that reason, I support the intent of this Bill.

We do need stronger and clearer responses to crime and persistent anti-social behaviour, particularly where individuals repeatedly impact businesses, public spaces and community safety. Waiting for situations to escalate has not been effective. Earlier and more consistent intervention is a practical step toward restoring confidence in our town.

At the same time, this must be implemented carefully. Stronger powers should be clear, proportionate, and consistently applied. They should focus on repeated harmful behaviour, not penalise people simply for being vulnerable or present in public spaces.

I also support a more accountable approach to drug-related offending. The current system has not always led to change. Repeated opportunities without meaningful consequence do not help individuals or the broader community. However, enforcement alone will not resolve this issue.

Many of the people involved are dealing with homelessness, addiction, or mental health challenges. They are part of this community. If the response is only to move people on, fine them, or exclude them from certain areas, the problem is not resolved, it is displaced.

Stronger enforcement must be coupled with genuine access to support, including emergency housing, healthcare, and rehabilitation. However, the community should not have to wait for individuals to be ready to engage with that support before action is taken. People need both autonomy, accountability, and real opportunities for change, but ongoing behaviour that harms others and limits the safe use of public spaces cannot continue unchecked.

At the same time, it is not the responsibility of businesses, residents, or vulnerable members of the community to continue absorbing the impacts of ongoing anti-social behaviour.

The reality is no single approach will satisfy everyone, and there are no perfect solutions. I do not believe this Bill is a complete answer to every issue in our town. However, the current approach is not working well enough, and the community is clearly calling for change. I believe this is a sincere attempt to bring about that change.

This Bill reflects real and widely expressed concerns. If implemented fairly, consistently, and alongside meaningful support systems, it has the potential to improve both community safety and long-term outcomes for those involved.