

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

Submission No: 163

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I am writing to you to express my strong support for:

- Stronger laws on drugs and anti-social behaviour.
- CBD Southport to be a "Designated Business and Community Precinct"
- Stronger action on illicit drugs, homelessness and anti-social behaviour in Southport and the Gold Coast.

I am especially concerned about the absolutely disgusting and disgraceful state of Scarborough Street and the Southport CBD precinct. My son has recently started work at a local hotel in this area, and every night comes home with stories of drug addicts and homeless people who have basically turned this into an unsafe "no go" zone at night. He has been assaulted, windows and doors on the hotel kicked in and has been threatened regularly to the point where he has now resigned because of the constant threats, culminating in recently being assaulted at work by a drug addicted thug who threatened to "slice him up with a knife". I am sure you would not tolerate your own children being subjected to this behaviour in the workplace, and very little seems to be done about this. The police were called and this individual is well known to them, however I am sure he will be back out on the streets soon enough to continue this anti social behavior. Why should my son have to resign from his job and live in fear because the government is either incapable or unable to control this? Why should our lives be affected and dictated to by individuals like this? The constant buck passing of responsibility is reprehensible with all parties responsible in some way accountable.

The streets are used as an open public toilet, loud music and almost nightly police incidents being the norm. Australia Fair and the entrance is probably the most unsafe and unattractive shopping centre on the coast, the vacant shops almost out number tenants (for good reason), local parks resemble a slum at night, and the tram stops are becoming downright dangerous, yet are only metres from the police station. If Broadbeach can be cleaned up and turned into a pleasant and inviting dining and entertainment precinct, why can't Southport? We have lived in Southport for over 15 years, and the situation is getting far, far worse, not better. What an absolute embarrassment for the tourists, international students and locals to have this happening on our doorstep. What concrete plan is there to address this? We also have homeless people setting up tents in our local park, several houses being condemned as they have been used as meth houses, and our car broken into. The social housing in our area is an absolute disgrace, and approaching third world standards, and there are hoons openly doing burnouts in our streets weekly. Are we expected to accept that this is the "norm" now, or will there anything be done about this? For the first time in my life, I now keep an iron bar close to the door, fearing a break in. In Australia. In Southport.

This government was elected on the basis of improving community safety, yet I can see no progress whatsoever. Having lived in a so-called "third world" country (Vietnam) for 7 years and recently returned home, I can tell you that I never felt unsafe walking around Da Nang at night, whereas I cannot say the same about my home city. In fact, if you would want to see the model about how a city (very similar to the Gold Coast) should be maintained for the community, you could learn a lot from the Vietnamese, who have a zero tolerance for any kind of anti-social behaviour.

Our suburb and city are a direct reflection of the performance of our elected officials, and I can only say how bitterly disappointed I am in our elected representatives to meet their most basic responsibility which is to provide a safe, clean and enjoyable community environment in which to raise our families.

We are at the point where we are seriously considering selling up and moving to an area where community safety seems to be more of a priority.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns, and we don't want to see yet another "Plan" "Strategy" "Study" or Press Releases and [REDACTED] speeches in Parliament; we want to see Action!