

## Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024

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**Submitted by:** Queer & Trans Workers Against Violence  
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Queer and Trans Workers Against Violence (QTWAV)

Email: [info.qtwav@gmail.com](mailto:info.qtwav@gmail.com)

PO Box 1372 Eagle Farm BC, QLD

Secretariat: Billie Stimpson

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### **A submission to the Queensland Parliamentary Inquiry into the Making Queensland Safer Bill**

Queer and Trans Workers Against Violence is a collaborative project of LGBTIQ+ Sistergirl and Brotherboy professionals working across LGBTIQASB+ community organisations and Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence services in Queensland, our members have continued to meet regularly since January 2022. We are currently a successful recipient grant funding through the Department of Justice and Attorney General, which we have gratefully undertaken through an auspice arrangement through the Queensland Council for LGBTI Health (QC). Prior to that, we have undertaken activity via Queensland Mental Health Week, Investing in Queensland Women and WorkUp Collaborative Workforce Grants. Our current members include workers from key organisational stakeholders for LGBTIQ+SB violence prevention in Queensland. We consider the collaborative model of QTWAV to be a high standard exemplar of several key principles within the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022-2032:

- *Sexual, domestic and family violence services and programs led by LGBTIQ+ specialist services*
- *Building the capacity of the broader service system to respond to the needs of LGBTIQ+ people*
- *Collaboration and partnership between specialist domestic, family and sexual violence services and other services such as... LGBTIQ+ community organisations*
- *Work to address violence against LGBTIQ+ people... led by organisations and individuals within those communities, based on their own frameworks and priorities*

QTWAV is extremely concerned over the proposed *Making Queensland Safer* legislation. It is not at all clear, based on the evidence and the informed commentary from community stakeholders, that this legislation will provide for its intended outcomes, and will instead have devastating consequences on the lives of extremely marginalised young people with an overwhelming need for support. Due to an inherent lack of resourcing, QTWAV is not in a position to make a detailed and comprehensive submission to this inquiry, and wish instead to indicate our support for the stakeholder submissions from the Institute for Collaborative Race Research, Open Doors Youth Service, QCOSS, commentary from the [Queensland Human Rights Commission](#) and [Change the Record](#), as well as the extensive submission writing from [Youth Advocacy Centre](#) to date relating to youth crime and youth justice.

We identify our interest in the proposed legislation in relation to the following:

- [Rates](#) of Domestic and Family Violence, including family of origin coercion and rejection amongst LGBTIQASB+ young people are unacceptably high
- [Rates](#) of homelessness, sexual violence, social isolation, substance use and broad forms of marginalisation against LGBTIQASB+ young people are also unacceptably high
- Survey data of LGBTIQASB+ young people demonstrate [disproportionately high rates of disability and chronic health conditions](#)
- [Research into the social and emotional wellbeing of LGBTIQASB+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people](#) indicate disproportionate risks of the above compared even to the elevated risk profiles facing both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, and LGBTIQASB+ young people
- There is an overwhelming evidence base indicating the disproportionate rates of incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, and research continues to demonstrate the [disproportionate rates of young](#)



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[people with disability caught within the criminal justice system](#), who overwhelmingly are themselves victims and survivors of violence and interpersonal crime

- [Contemporary research](#) does not support increased and harsher carceral frameworks as a meaningful intervention into the issues of youth crime and offending.
- For the above reasons, we reasonably infer that multiply marginalised LGBTIQASB+ young people face elevated risk of policing and criminal justice penalisation as a result of the proposed legislation.

We note that there has been extensive expert commentary and critique of the proposed legislation that is readily available in the public sphere, and which is being shared in submission for this bill. Such commentary draws important connections to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as Queensland's Human Rights legislation. We are extremely concerned about the inevitable harm that this bill will produce for children and young people from heavily marginalised populations, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. We are concerned that the proposed legislation is unlikely to result in safer communities, particularly for heavily marginalised communities that experience domestic and family violence, sexual violence and interpersonal crime disproportionately. What seems clear is that the proposed bill delivers on a political promise made by a newly elected government, but one that is not based on evidence, nor one that is likely to deliver on its promise for safety.

We urge the Queensland Government not to pass this bill.

With deep concern,

Billie Stimpson\*

Secretary, QTWAV

\*due to the incred bly short time-frame for submissions, this letter is written independently by the Secretary, and does not represent a full consensus statement of QTWAV members