

## **Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024**

**Submission No:** 171  
**Submitted by:** Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**



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To Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000  
Via [emailJICSC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:emailJICSC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

03.12.2024

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024**

I wish to place on record that Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence (GCCASV) does not support the ***Making Queensland Safer Bill***. The changes proposed by this Bill do not comply with Queensland's Human Rights Act as well as international human rights standards.

Furthermore, the extremely short response time frame means that there has been no time for government and stakeholders to explore, consult and give this Bill the proper consideration necessary for such far reaching legislative reform.

**About GCCASV**

GCCASV (formerly Gold Coast Sexual Assault Support Service) was founded in 1990 to deliver specialist sexual violence intervention and prevention programs to the Gold Coast community. Since 2018, the centre has also provided long term therapy to victim/survivors of domestic and family violence under the Women's Health and Wellbeing Program. GCCASV is a feminist, community based, community controlled charitable organisation funded by Department of Justice. Run by women for women, the agency services the geographic area from Coolangatta to Pimpama.

The organisation provides a safe, supportive, woman-centred environment in which victim/survivors can become aware of their strengths and gain confidence and control of their lives.

Whilst the focus of GCCASV is victim support, we are also very committed to holding offenders accountable for their crimes within a human rights framework.

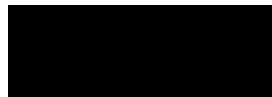
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I am not able to make a full submission within time limits, but offer the following comments:

- The Bill ignores best practice, and the views of a range of experts in the field.
- Expanding the admissibility of a child's criminal history into their adult years will hinder them in moving forward positively with their lives.
- Removing detention as a last resort does not make any sense when it still applies to adults.
- This Bill will disproportionately and negatively impact Indigenous and other vulnerable children and young people who are already significantly overrepresented in the criminal justice system. Queensland already incarcerates the highest number of children in Australia and almost 45 per cent of Indigenous children in custody nationwide are in Queensland.
- This Bill dispenses with prevention, early intervention, diversion and rehabilitation, removes judicial sentencing discretion and restorative justice principles and replaces them with punitive legal measures. This approach will not reduce crime or lead to a safer Queensland. Instead, it will put pressure on a failing system and cause further harm to children and young people, their families and our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Bill.

Yours sincerely



Di Macleod

**Director**

E: 

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