

# Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

**Submission No:** 007

**Submission By:** Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union

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# Submission to

Justice, Integrity and Community Safety  
Committee

## Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026

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## 1.0 Introduction

The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union (QNMU) thanks the *Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee* for the opportunity to provide feedback on the *Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2026*.

The QNMU is Queensland's largest and only registered union for nurses and midwives, representing over 79,000 members. The QNMU is a state branch of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) with the ANMF representing over 345,000 members.

Our members work in health and aged care including public and private hospitals and health services, residential and community aged care, maternity services, mental health, general practice, and disability sectors across a wide variety of urban, regional, rural, and remote locations.

The QNMU is run by nurses and midwives, for nurses and midwives. We have a proud history of working with our members for over 100 years to promote and defend the professional, industrial, social, and political interests of our members. Our members direct the QNMU's priorities and policies through our democratic processes.

The QNMU expresses our continued commitment to working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to achieve health equity outcomes. The QNMU remains committed to the Uluru Statement from the Heart, including a pathway to truth telling and treaty. We acknowledge the lands on which we work and meet always was, and always will be, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

Our submission is limited to addressing the proposed amendments to the *Coroners Act 2023*.

## 2.0 Proposed amendments to the *Coroners Act 2003*

The QNMU broadly supports the proposed amendments to the *Coroners Act 2003* (the Act) which are intended to create greater coronial efficiencies, ease the pressure on the coronial system and streamline the allocation of coronial resources. We raise some minor general comments regarding the implementation of these changes.

We acknowledge the intent of these reforms and note that addressing the broader structural challenges and ensuring adequate resourcing is essential to ensure they deliver sustainable outcomes, rather than a short-term response to wider systemic pressures.

### 2.1 Delegation to Registrars and Deputy Registrars

The QNMU supports the intent of this amendment to create efficiencies in the system that allow less complex coronial matters to be finalised expeditiously to provide answers and give comfort to bereaved family members. It is important that safeguards ensure that delegations are appropriate.

### 2.2 Any coroner to investigate and conduct mandatory inquest into certain deaths due to natural causes

The QNMU supports this amendment in principle to alleviate the pressure on the coronial system and support bereaved families by allowing natural deaths that occurred in custody or from police operations to be investigated by any coroner.

Acknowledging that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are overrepresented in deaths in custody (McCalister, Miles & Bricknell, 2025), due consideration must be given to addressing the underlying causes and systemic issues that contribute to this disproportionate representation.

### 2.3 Appointment of a coroner as a chairperson of the Domestic and Family Violence Review and Advisory Board

The QNMU supports the proposed amendment to allow an appropriately qualified coroner to be appointed as chairperson of the board. The QNMU maintains that the membership of the board must continue to reflect the diversity of the Queensland community in accordance with Section 91L of the Act.

### 2.4 Statement of referral of information under section 48, minor amendment to remove an example of an unnatural death and amendments to the Reportable Deaths Framework.

The QNMU supports the policy objectives of these proposed amendments.

### 3.0 References

McAlister, M., Miles, H. & Bricknell, S. (2025) *Deaths in custody in Australia 2024–25*. Statistical Report no. 57. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology. <https://doi.org/10.52922/sr78199>