

Executive Summary

On 1 April 2025, the Premier and Minister for Veterans introduced the Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025 (Bill) into the Queensland Parliament. The Bill was referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee (committee) for detailed consideration.

The Bill reflects the second tranche of the Adult Crime, Adult Time laws which were introduced in the *Making Queensland Safer Act 2024* (MQS Act). These additional offences are in line with the advice of the Expert Legal Panel convened to identify additional and more complex offences for inclusion.

The Bill proposes to amend the *Youth Justice Act 1992* (YJ Act) to:

- include an additional 20 offences to the ‘adult crime, adult time’ sentencing scheme as recommended by the Expert Legal Panel
- include an option for victims on the ‘eligible persons register’ to request that another person receive information on their behalf about the custody movements of a young offender
- remove a reference to a repealed section of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* (PPRA).

Stakeholders were invited to make written submissions on the Bill. The committee received and accepted 62 submissions (56 submissions were published on the committee’s webpage and 6 submissions remained confidential).

The committee received a written briefing on 4 April 2025 and an oral briefing on 28 April 2025 from the Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support.

The committee heard from stakeholders at the following public hearings:

- Brisbane on 28 April 2025 and 8 May 2025
- Cairns on 6 May 2025
- Townsville on 7 May 2025
- Redlands on 9 May 2025.

Key issues examined during the committee’s consideration of the Bill included:

- the expansion of the ‘adult crime, adult time’ sentencing regime in the YJ Act:
 - the proposed additional offences to be included
 - the effect of the additional offences on sentencing of young offenders
 - the purpose and impact of increased maximum penalties on young offenders
 - the implications on access to restorative justice

- the disproportionate impact of the Bill on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- the potential for independent review of outcomes and consequences
- considerations for implementation
- additional amendments to the YJ Act regarding the 'eligible victims register' and a reference to a repealed provision of the PPRA.

The committee is satisfied that the Bill gives sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and the institution of Parliament as required by the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

The committee found that the Bill is not compatible with human rights as defined in the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HRA). However, the committee considers that this incompatibility is justified in the circumstances and the Bill does not require an override declaration pursuant to section 43 of the HRA given:

- the Bill is an amendment bill, and
- the information contained in the statement about exceptional circumstances tabled with the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024 (the parent legislation to the current Bill) is an adequate basis for the HRA to be overridden.

The committee made one recommendation, found at page vii of this report.