

Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025

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Mr Marty Hunt MP
Member for Nicklin
Chair
Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee

[Via Email: JICSC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:JICSC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Hunt

Inquiry into the *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025*.

I would like to take this opportunity to make a submission about the *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025* (the Bill).

The Queensland Police Union (QPU) represents over 13,000 members, the majority of whom are on the front line providing policing and emergency responses for the Queensland community. Whilst the QPU is committed to obtaining the best industrial outcomes and entitlements for its membership, it is also committed to contributing to the law and order debate to obtain realistic and workable solutions to combatting crime and protecting our community.

The QPU places on record its support for the Bill, which delivers on the Crisafulli Government's 2024 State Election commitment to restore safety in our communities and make Queenslanders feel safe.

The first tranche of the Government's signature Adult Crime, Adult Time laws legislated 13 serious prescribed offences before the end of 2024 to immediately boost public perceptions about community safety. Those laws were well received by Queenslanders.

The QPU notes the Bill delivers the second tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time reforms based on a detailed examination of juvenile offending and sentencing by an Expert Legal Panel. Among the 20 additional offences proposed in the Bill, the QPU is especially pleased to see the inclusion of the following Criminal Code offences:

- Section 328C – Damaging Emergency Vehicle when operating motor vehicle; and
- Section 328D – Endangering police officer when driving motor vehicle.

Police and other emergency services workers perform difficult jobs in the service of the Queensland community and they deserve the utmost protection of laws providing a strong deterrent effect to those who contemplate endangering them through their unlawful and reckless behaviour and/or depleting the availability of vital public safety assets.

Putting victims at the centre of youth justice is necessary to restore community confidence and the QPU supports this approach as well as the need for an override declaration of the *Human Rights Act*.

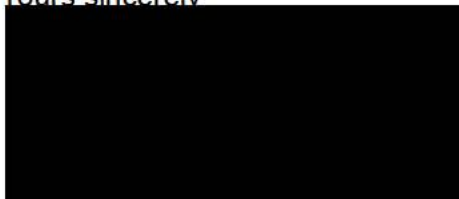
However, the QPU again flags the potential for increased or sustained detention capacity issues at Queensland Police Service (QPS) watchhouses. Young offenders remanded in custody or sentenced to a period of detention are held in QPS watchhouses until there is availability in a detention centre. Youth detention centres are continually over capacity and young offenders are often held in QPS watchhouses for lengthy periods.

There is universal agreement that police watchhouses are not suitable for the extended detention of young people. Police watchhouses are unable to provide the level of care and support that is present in a youth detention centre.

The recent operationalisation of the Wacol Youth Remand Centre may alleviate any impacts on QPS Watchhouses. The QPU also acknowledges the Government's commitment to monitor the demand and impacts of the legislative amendments and respond appropriately through the normal budget process.

I trust the information contained in this submission assists the Committee with its Inquiry into the Bill. I am available on (Telephone) 3259 1900 or via email [REDACTED] should you have any questions about this submission.

Yours sincerely

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Shane Prior
General President
QUEENSLAND POLICE UNION