

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

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Australian
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Commission

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

Australian Human Rights Commission

Submission to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety
Committee

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1 Introduction

The Australian Human Rights Commission (Commission) makes this submission to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee (Committee) in relation to its inquiry into the *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025* (the Bill), specifically in relation to section 175A of the Bill.

The Commission is opposed to the amendment of section 175A of the *Youth Justice Act 1992* (YJ Act) to introduce 'adult crime, adult time' for an additional 20 criminal offences.

By the Queensland Government's own admission, this amendment directly breaches human rights, in particular the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld) (Human Rights Act) and the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC). The Government's statement of compatibility in relation to this Bill states:

- the amendments to YJ Act s.175A, which insert new offences into the 'Adult Crime, Adult Time' regime, are incompatible with human rights.
- the Government acknowledges that the proposed amendments are not consistent with international standards regarding the best interests of the child with respect to children in the justice system and are therefore incompatible with human rights.¹

We note the Queensland Attorney-General has provided the following justification:

While I acknowledge that these amendments are not compatible with human rights, these measures and the purposes to which they are directed are clearly supported by Queenslanders and are a direct response to growing community concern and outrage over crimes perpetrated by young offenders. The provisions inserted by the amendments are subject to the override declaration in existing section 175A of the YJ Act which provides that the section has effect despite being incompatible with human rights, and despite anything else in the HR Act.²

This is an example of how governments often espouse the rhetoric of human rights but fail to implement them in practice. While Queensland has a Human Rights Act, it is failing to stay true to the responsibilities inherent in its Act.

Similarly, there is a disconnect between Queensland and Australia's international human rights commitments. When the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, visited Australia in 2019, she commented on Australia's relationship with the international human rights framework. She said:

Sometimes I hear Australian commentators bemoan all this attention, suggesting the UN human rights machinery should focus its attention elsewhere, but this scrutiny is not the function of some international policing system enforcing rules from outside. It is based on international standards that Australia has helped to create; which successive Australian governments have voluntarily adopted; and which Australians themselves have sought to engage and leverage in an effort to make Australia a better, more inclusive and humane place.³

There is lack of rigour and commitment by Queensland meeting the obligations set out in the Human Rights Act and treating it, and related international treaties, as largely aspirational. This includes the failure of Queensland to establish a National Preventative Mechanism as part of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture (OPCAT).

The breaching of the human rights of children is unacceptable and contrary to the evidence which shows that justice systems based on ‘punishment and denunciation’⁴ do not work to prevent crime by children.⁵

Crime by children is a ‘symptom’ of underlying issues and complex unmet needs. These are children in the most vulnerable of circumstances and making the justice system tougher does not work to prevent crime. It is essential to understand and address the unmet needs of these children, many of whom have disabilities and mental health issues, and are victims of maltreatment.⁶

The Commission’s recent *Help Way Earlier!* (HWE) report showed how an evidence and human-rights-based approach to child justice reform will contribute to reduced child offending.⁷

The HWE report also acknowledged community concerns about personal safety are real, and the voices of victims need to be heard. Victims of crime advocates interviewed for the report expressed frustration that their calls for more effective prevention and early intervention were not being acted on by governments.⁸

The evidence shows that the younger children are locked up, the more likely it is that they will go on to commit more serious and violent crimes. As shown in the HWE report making the justice system more punitive through longer sentences, harsher bail laws, and building more children’s prisons is the wrong approach.⁹ That is because offending by children is a symptom of underlying causes and unmet needs that we are failing to address. The proposed measures in the Bill are likely to result in more crime, not less. We urge the Queensland Government to apply the evidence about what works to support children’s wellbeing, prevent crime and make communities safer.

Many children in contact with the criminal justice system are dealing with multiple and complex issues including neurological disabilities, cognitive and learning problems and mental health disorders. Poverty, intergenerational trauma, violence and abuse, racism, homelessness, and inadequate healthcare are contributing factors in their contact with the justice system. These social determinants limit how children are able to enjoy their rights on a non-discriminatory basis, including the right to education, health, and an adequate standard of living, as well as the right to live in safety and to fully enjoy their culture.¹⁰

When children enter the justice system, their disabilities and mental health issues are exacerbated by detention and harmful conditions, including extended periods of time in isolation in their cells, as noted in numerous official reports. First Nations children and young people continue to be overrepresented in the criminal justice system, and particularly in detention.

Preventing crime by children requires a public health approach to reform systems including health, education, housing and child protection, in order to address the underlying causes of crime, as set out in the HWE report.¹¹

2 Recommendations

Recommendation 1: The Commission recommends that the *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025* should not be passed.

Recommendation 2: The Commission recommends that the Committee endorses the 24 recommendations for reform in the report ***Help Way Earlier! How Australia can transform child justice to improve safety and wellbeing***.¹²

Recommendation 3: Preventing harm to children in detention: The Commission recommends that the Queensland Government take action to prevent torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment of children in detention, including by designating a National Preventive Mechanism to ensure best practice implementation of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture (OPCAT) as a preventative measure.

3 Key human rights concerns with the Bill

3.1 Criminal justice responses for children must be age-appropriate, proportionate, and rehabilitative

The Bill proposes to amend the *Youth Justice Act 1992* (Qld) so that children who commit certain offences are sentenced under s175A rather than s176. If a child is sentenced to life for one of these offences, then part 7, division 10, subdivision 4 of the YJ Act and section 181(2)(d) of the *Corrective Services Act 2006* operate together to provide that the child will have a minimum non-parole period of 15 years.¹³ Life offences include attempt to murder, rape, certain sexual assaults, attempted robbery with violence, arson and drug trafficking.¹⁴ In those cases, consideration of the child's best interests will not form part of the court's consideration of the appropriate non-parole portion of a life sentence.¹⁵

The Queensland Government has admitted in the Statement of Compatibility that this is incompatible with human rights under the Human Rights Act and the CRC. The CRC is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history, including by Australia in 1990. Australian governments and parliaments have obligations to take all appropriate measures to help all children in Australia realise their rights.

The CRC recognises that childhood is separate from adulthood, and lasts until 18; it is a special, protected time, in which children must be allowed to grow, learn, play, develop and flourish with dignity.

This is reflected in article 40 of the CRC that requires Australia to ensure its criminal justice responses for children are age-appropriate, proportionate, and rehabilitative.

The principle of proportionality means that mandatory sentences of any kind, and particularly of detention, contravene the CRC.¹⁶ They also have a disproportionate impact on First Nations peoples.¹⁷

It is recognised in the Statement of Compatibility that the Bill will result in more children who are found guilty of the new offences being sentenced to, and spending more time in, detention.¹⁸ Additionally, it is noted in the Statement of Compatibility, that the amendments:

may impose further strain on youth detention centres in Queensland and it is possible that this could result in increased numbers of children in watchhouses for extended periods of time. This would be a direct limitation to the right to protection from cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment (HR Act s.17(b)) and the right to humane treatment when deprived of liberty (HR Act s.30). This is because

it is widely accepted that watchhouses are not appropriate or humane places to detain children, particularly for any lengthy period of time.¹⁹

As discussed in HWE, children are already being detained inappropriately in adult watch houses in Queensland, some for extended periods of time.²⁰ In a 2023 review of the increasing use of watch houses, the Queensland Family and Child Commission showed that the length of detention of children in watch houses was increasing significantly.²¹ Magistrate Eoin Mac Giolla Ri described the unsatisfactory conditions of watch houses, when considering a bail application for a 15-year-old Aboriginal boy with FASD and an acquired brain injury. He had been detained at a Mt Isa watch house for the past 15 days. Magistrate Eoin Mac Giolla Ri stated:

It suffices to say that conditions in watchhouses are harsh and that adult detainees are often drunk, abusive, psychotic or suicidal. Although children may be kept in separate cells, those cells are usually open to the sights and sounds of the watchhouse. Equally, there is no facility to deliver education or the therapeutic interventions that are sometimes available in detention centres.²²

3.2 Detention as a last resort

The CRC states that detention should only be used as a last resort, and for the shortest appropriate period of time (article 37(b)). These are the main principles upon which most Australian youth justice systems are based, and which are incorporated in some form in most state and territory legislation. This is not the case in Queensland resulting from amendments made to the YJ Act in December 2024.

UN studies have highlighted the potentially harmful effects of detention on children, especially their health, mental health and development.²³ Although there is a need for more research on the impacts of detention,²⁴ it is clear that many children enter detention with existing health conditions, and that these may be exacerbated by being in detention, with some health conditions developing as a result of deprivation of liberty.²⁵

Many children are entering detention with pre-existing vulnerabilities, such as neurodevelopmental disabilities and mental ill-health. Current models of detention are likely to compound trauma for these children. The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability found that detention settings exacerbate the vulnerabilities of children with disability who often lack access to therapeutic support and trauma-informed care.²⁶

Recognising this potential for harm, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child urges nations to immediately embark on a process to reduce reliance on detention to a minimum.²⁷ This requires the development of effective and responsive community-based alternatives to detention. These are discussed further in the HWE report.²⁸

3.3 First Nations children's rights

The Queensland Attorney-General has claimed, in relation to this Bill, that:

I am satisfied that there is no direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of race. This is because the increased sentences will apply equally to all young offenders.²⁹

If this Bill is passed, there are risks that, because the legislation will disproportionately impact certain racial groups including First Nations children, it will breach the *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*.

Indirect discrimination occurs when a measure (in this case increased sentences for children) applies to everyone equally but disadvantages particular people protected under discrimination law (in this case First Nations people and people from other racial backgrounds) and the measure is not reasonable.

Despite First Nations people making up only 4.6 percent of the Queensland population, First Nations children comprise approximately 62 percent of the Queensland youth detention population. The Queensland Government has acknowledged in the Bill's Statement of Compatibility that the proposed legislation is likely to further disproportionately impact First Nations children:

It is likely that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children will be impacted more by these amendments, due to their overrepresentation in the criminal justice system. The Bill could result in more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children being imprisoned for longer periods of time.³⁰

There is ample evidence that the answer to reducing offending by First Nations Children is to address the disadvantage and racism that they and their communities face and to put in place measures to protect their human rights. Further eroding human rights is a retrograde measure that will only do more harm.

In April 2025, an urgent complaint was made to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination about Australia's discriminatory youth justice systems and how they seriously violate the human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Associate Professor Hannah McGlade and Scientia Professor Megan Davis with the support of the Human Rights Law Centre submitted the complaint. The submission was endorsed by Professor Eddie Cubillo, the National Children's Commissioner, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, the Australian Human Rights Commission, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, and SNAICC – National Voice for our Children.

The complaint has been submitted under the Committee's Early Warning and Urgent Action procedure, which is reserved for serious violations of the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination that are escalating and/or require immediate attention. The full complaint can be accessed at https://static1.squarespace.com/static/580025f66b8f5b2dabbe4291/t/67ea290c1c3aff78641d7e91/1743399185829/United+Nations+CERD+complaint_youth+justice+in+Australia.pdf

It is also pertinent to point out that Queensland is party to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. Target 11 is that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system. The target is to reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (10-17 years) in detention by at least 30 per cent by 2031. The approach being taken by the Queensland Government is in direct contradiction to this agreed target. The Bill will increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth incarceration rather than reduce it.

3.4 A national, child rights-based approach to reform

The Commission's HWE report outlines an approach to reform that is based on decades of international and Australian evidence.

The HWE report identifies critical steps for nationally coordinated action and makes recommendations for evidence-based actions that should be independently pursued by states and territories.³¹ Similar key actions have been recommended in numerous previous reports, inquiries and reviews of child justice and child protection systems.

Reform requires placing children and their wellbeing at the centre of policymaking and service delivery; empowering First Nations children, families and communities; optimising community-based action; building a capable and child specialised workforce; basing systems on data and evidence; and embedding accountability for the rights of children. Recommendations in the HWE report for achieving this include:

Recommendation 5: Australian Governments provide integrated, place-based health, education and social services for both children and their families.

Recommendation 7: Australian Governments urgently prioritise access to safe and affordable housing for children and families, including those in the child protection and justice systems.

Recommendation 8: Australian Governments prioritise access to comprehensive and culturally safe healthcare, including for children with multiple and intersecting needs.

Recommendation 9: Australian Governments resource schools to be community hubs integrated with health services and providing flexible learning options.

Recommendation 10: Australian Governments prioritise investments in prevention and early intervention through Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations.

Recommendation 11: Australian Governments improve availability of free and accessible community sport, music, other social activities, and cultural programs, addressing barriers such as lack of public transport.

Recommendation 12: Australian Governments resource and expand the availability of evidence-based diversionary programs for children, including those by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations, and other culturally safe programs.

Recommendation 13: Australian Governments invest in restorative justice conferencing to be available across Australia, ensuring culturally appropriate approaches for First Nations children and communities.

Recommendation 14: Australian Governments resource the redesign of services to be place-based and informed by evidence and local community priorities, in line with Priority Reform 1 of the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap*.

Recommendation 15: Australian Governments develop nationally consistent minimum training requirements for workforces in the child justice and related systems, including child protection and police. Training should include child rights, child development, mental health, neurodevelopmental disabilities, cultural competence, and trauma-informed practice.

Recommendation 16: Australian Governments ensure that all child justice matters are heard in specialised Children’s Courts or by child-specialist magistrates.

Recommendation 17: Australian Governments collect key data on children in the child justice system, disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographic location, ethnic origin, and socioeconomic background, including data disaggregated at the local level to support service design and delivery. This data should be publicly available and accessible.

Recommendation 19: Australian Governments legislate to prohibit solitary confinement practices in child detention facilities and prohibit the use of isolation as punishment in any circumstance.

Recommendation 20: Australian Governments raise the age of criminal responsibility in all jurisdictions to 14 years and undertake a review of the application of the presumption of *doli incapax*.

Recommendation 21: Australian Governments agree to implement nationally consistent standards for monitoring detention facilities for children.

Recommendation 22: Australian Governments fully implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, including by designating National Preventive Mechanisms that have child rights expertise in all jurisdictions.

Recommendation 23: Australian Governments conduct Child Rights Impact Assessments on laws and policies that affect children.

3.5 Preventing harm to children in the child justice system through the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture (OPCAT) and establishing a National Preventative Mechanism in Queensland (NPM)

In light of the proposed amendments and measures in the *Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024*, it is incumbent on the Queensland Government to take action to prevent harm to children. The Statement of Compatibility notes the numerous breaches of the human rights of children created by this Act. Some of these harms could be ameliorated by actions such as limiting the time in police watchhouses for children to 24 hours, as recommended by numerous Queensland officials including the Queensland Human Rights Commissioner.³²

Health and mental health screening should be provided for children, and training for officers caring for these children who may have disabilities, mental health issues and trauma.

The OPCAT recognises that places of detention are where risks of torture and other ill treatment can occur. The OPCAT aims to establish a mechanism to prevent torture and ill treatment. Ratifying the OPCAT requires Australia to create, or designate, one or several NPMs to prevent torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.³³ The role of the NPM is to conduct regular visits and monitor the treatment of people in detention.

The Commonwealth Government has elected to adopt a multiple body monitoring system with the Commonwealth, States and Territories designating their own NPMs within the relevant jurisdictions. Delays in designating NPMs by three States in Australia has meant that Australia has failed to meet its extended OPCAT compliance deadline. Queensland is one of the States that is yet to designate their NPM.

Queensland does have mechanisms that are designed to provide oversight of places of detention in Queensland, including the Inspector of Detention Services. While the Inspector of Detention Services does have a focus on the prevention of harm and 'has been designed to encompass key features of an NPM as outlined in OPCAT', the purpose of introducing this role was 'not to give effect to OPCAT'.³⁴ Ensuring that a NPM is designated and OPCAT is implemented is an important step towards ensuring the prevention of torture and ill treatment in detention in Queensland.

This is particularly an issue given the vulnerability of children (including when children are on remand, and in watch houses). Safety and oversight mechanisms for children in detention could be achieved through establishing a fully operational NPM in Queensland.

¹ Queensland Parliament, *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025*, *Statement of Compatibility*, at: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5825T0284/5825t284.pdf> (accessed 9 April 2025).

² Queensland Parliament, *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025*, *Statement of Compatibility*, at: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5825T0284/5825t284.pdf> (accessed 9 April 2025).

³ Australian Human Rights Commission Conference, *Free and Equal: An Australian Conversation on Human Rights*, Statement by Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (8

- October 2019) at: <https://humanrights.gov.au/about/news/speeches/un-human-rights-commissioner-speaks-out> (accessed 9 April 2025).
- ⁴ Queensland Parliament, *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025, Statement of Compatibility*, at: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5825T0284/5825t284.pdf> (accessed 9 April 2025).
- ⁵ Australian Human Rights Commission, *'Help way earlier!': How Australia can transform child justice to improve safety and wellbeing* (2024) 89 at <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights/publications/help-way-earlier>.
- ⁶ Australian Human Rights Commission, *'Help way earlier!': How Australia can transform child justice to improve safety and wellbeing* (2024) 89 at <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights/publications/help-way-earlier>.
- ⁷ Australian Human Rights Commission, *'Help way earlier!': How Australia can transform child justice to improve safety and wellbeing* (2024) 89 at <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights/publications/help-way-earlier>.
- ⁸ Australian Human Rights Commission, *Help way earlier!': How Australia can transform child justice to improve safety and wellbeing* (2024) 109 at <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights/publications/help-way-earlier>.
- ⁹ Australian Human Rights Commission, *'Help way earlier!': How Australia can transform child justice to improve safety and wellbeing* (2024) 89 at <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights/publications/help-way-earlier>.
- ¹⁰ Australian Human Rights Commission, *'Help way earlier!': How Australia can transform child justice to improve safety and wellbeing* (2024) at <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights/publications/help-way-earlier>.
- ¹¹ Australian Human Rights Commission, *'Help way earlier!': How Australia can transform child justice to improve safety and wellbeing* (2024) 89 at <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights/publications/help-way-earlier>.
- ¹² Australian Human Rights Commission, *'Help way earlier!': How Australia can transform child justice to improve safety and wellbeing* (2024) 89 at <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights/publications/help-way-earlier>.
- ¹³ Queensland Parliament, *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025, Statement of Compatibility*, at: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5825T0284/5825t284.pdf> (accessed 9 April 2025).
- ¹⁴ Queensland Parliament, *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025, Statement of Compatibility*, at: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5825T0284/5825t284.pdf> (accessed 9 April 2025).
- ¹⁵ Queensland Parliament, *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025, Statement of Compatibility*, at: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5825T0284/5825t284.pdf> (accessed 9 April 2025).
- ¹⁶ United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *General Comment 24 on children's rights in the child justice system*, UN Doc CRC/C/GC/24 (18 September 2019) para 78.
- ¹⁷ NT Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory (2017) Volume 4, 172 <<https://www.royalcommission.gov.au/child-detention/final-report>>.
- ¹⁸ Queensland Parliament, *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025, Statement of Compatibility*, at: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5825T0284/5825t284.pdf> (accessed 9 April 2025).
- ¹⁹ Queensland Parliament, *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025, Statement of Compatibility*, at: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5825T0284/5825t284.pdf> (accessed 9 April 2025).

- ²⁰ Australian Human Rights Commission, *'Help way earlier!': How Australia can transform child justice to improve safety and wellbeing* (2024) 89 at <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights/publications/help-way-earlier>.
- ²¹ Queensland Family and Child Commission, 'Accountability and transparency key to watch house solution' (Web Page, 12 December 2023).
- ²² Re Richard Jones (a pseudonym) [2023] QChCM 1, 11, at <https://www.queenslandjudgments.com.au/caselaw/qchcm/2023/1/pdf-view>
- ²³ Manfred Nowak, Independent Expert leading the UN Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, United Nations Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty (11 July 2019) 167, 178 ; Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, UN Doc A/HRC/38/36 (10 April 2018), [53]–[55], [60]– [69].
- ²⁴ Tess Kelly et al, Ensuring the Highest Attainable Standard of Health for Children Deprived of their Liberty (Report, 2023) 6.
- ²⁵ Tess Kelly et al, Ensuring the Highest Attainable Standard of Health for Children Deprived of their Liberty (Report, 2023) 1.
- ²⁶ *Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability* (Final Report, September 2023) vol 8, 81.
- ²⁷ United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, *General Comment 24 on children's rights in the child justice system*, UN Doc CRC/C/GC/24 (18 September 2019) para 83.
- ²⁸ Australian Human Rights Commission, *'Help way earlier!': How Australia can transform child justice to improve safety and wellbeing* (2024) 71-75, at <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights/publications/help-way-earlier>.
- ²⁹ Queensland Parliament, *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025, Statement of Compatibility*, at: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5825T0284/5825t284.pdf> (accessed 9 April 2025).
- ³⁰ Queensland Parliament, *Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025, Statement of Compatibility*, at: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/5825T0284/5825t284.pdf> (accessed 9 April 2025).
- ³¹ Australian Human Rights Commission, *'Help way earlier!': How Australia can transform child justice to improve safety and wellbeing* (2024) 89 at <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights/publications/help-way-earlier>.
- ³² Queensland Human Rights Commission, *Detention of a child in a watch house* (2025) 51, at https://www.qhrc.qld.gov.au/resources/legal-information/reports-on-unresolved-human-rights-complaints?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Media---s884---Detention-of-a-child-in-a-watch-house&utm_content=Section+88+unresolved+reports+page&utm_source=comms.qhrc.qld.gov.au.
- ³³ *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*, opened for signature 4 February 2003, 2375 UNTS 237 (entered into force 22 June 2006) art 3.
- ³⁴ Australian Human Rights Commission, *Roadmap to OPCAT Compliance* (2022) at https://humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/opcat_road_map_0.pdf and current status of the IDS at <https://www.ombudsman.qld.gov.au/detention-inspection/about-this-service>.