

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

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Please see below my submission regarding the above. I have spent much time including contacting my local member and Justice Department staff trying to find the correct mailing address but despite a number of phone calls had no luck so I hope this ends with the correct location.

As required my details are:

1. Author - Frank Lourigan
 2. These is a private submission and personal thoughts
- [REDACTED]

YOUTH CRIME

- a. The deaths of David Connolly of Wilston, Emma Lovell of Northlakes and Robert Brown of Toowoomba by young criminals are all terrible tragedies but still the bad behaviour goes on. After reading about the latest youth crime laws enacted, I personally feel that while they are a step in the right direction, they may not achieve the desired outcome for a number of years and probably exceed the nominated time frame we've read about in news reports. With that in mind I feel that I have a 'fast fix' solution that will accelerate the outcome well within the term of the elected government.

I do not suggest significantly altering the recently amended laws as my suggestion could be handled as an addendum.

It focuses upon a specific group, that being the teenage groups and individuals who are currently causing so much trouble in our community. The laws as they currently stand, though severe, probably won't even be considered as a deterrent to these young minds as it's just another 'imaginary' law.

To them there just the 'same ol' laws so why should they feel the need to change, they've seen it before and nothing came of it.

So, to change this scenario something is needed that will get their attention, cause their attitude to reset and initiate a degree of 'fright' with a positive outcome wherein they reappraise their behaviour and not get involved in criminal events.

An example would be, if an eighteen year old is given a fourteen-year sentence for car theft, then with my suggestion the amercement is automatically upgraded with an additional ten years only because the person in question is younger than nineteen years. Because persons over the age of nineteen are not included it will make them think why should I be singled out and why should I get extra time. Now that must have a big impact.

In addition, to get the message across, words whether written or oral are needed that suit their level of mentality and promote discussion amongst this cohort. Clarity and focus with unambiguous wording and phraseology with a sharp and very pointed personalised target would ensure that their time is up and the law has them clearly in its sights.

Once heard I feel this addendum will be a sledgehammer blow significantly curtailing their desire for ongoing involvement. This simple but very frightening phrase, 'additional time for under 19' will I believe reduce the occurrence of common teenage criminal activity well within two years. Maybe the Government could advertise across all media to show the voters and warn the teenagers - 'if your 19 and younger now you'll do extra time for any crime'

Currently I suspect the hard-core repeat offenders won't even know what prison time they could be given. As already stated, they've seen it all before and nothing happened and it will take actual personal involvement whether that is themselves

or their friends. However, this will be a protracted scenario and the voters won't see the timely results they are expecting.

In summary my suggestion if enacted will be viewed by all responsible Queenslanders that our new Government is sincere and the promises made are being kept. Furthermore and more importantly our intent and wayward teenagers will tone down their disrespectful attitude and redirect their energy into other more passive areas.

DRONE SQUAD

- b. Instead of using police patrol vehicles to roam the streets at night why not use drones with the operator of the drone in direct contact with any patrol vehicle. These drones could do the general patrolling much quicker and more efficiently. Then any and all vehicles seen on the streets between the hours of say midnight and 5.00 am be investigated. The officer in the patrol vehicle should be allowed to pull over any vehicle and interview the driver regarding their purpose why they are out and if they are under nineteen and have no legitimate reason they are then instructed to go directly home. With the police constantly following any vehicle in the early hours this should have a dampening effect on the activity of the criminals. I suspect that these squads will only have a fairly short life span in any one area, maybe six to ten months because the criminals will finally give up because of all the police activity and presence. The Drone Squad could then move on to the next area in their priority list.

CUTTING COSTS OF CRIMINAL IMPRISONMENT

- c. Suggestion 'b' is about cutting the costs of housing and care of convicted criminals. This is probably more suited to only the low level type crimes and misdemeanours and excludes the above in suggestion (a). Instead of putting these people behind bars why not give them a choice of going to jail or allow them to leave the state for the same duration as their jail sentence. In a scenario where a person is given say a twelve-month sentence for robbery, then my suggestion means they have the choice of leaving the state for twelve months as an alternative to jail time. I suspect the vast majority, if not all, will take the option of leaving the state. However, one proviso may include that they must not break any laws of the state or country where they choose to relocate too otherwise it's straight to jail once they re-enter Queensland. I further suggest that if it becomes known that they have committed a crime outside our state that no extradition is enacted as that is very costly and they should only be rearrested if they volunteer to re-enter. There's a good chance they won't come back to Queensland as they know they will be facing jail time. So, it's a roundabout way of permanently cleaning our state of undesirables with big savings on the costs of policing, housing and care.

This suggestion may also solve the unpopular actions of the judiciary who, according to the news reports, continually release repeat offenders back into the community. With this suggestion another choice of sentencing will become available to the Magistrates who will have now the option to do the same but this time it won't be back into the state of Queensland.