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Office of the President

25 August 2017

Our ref (BDS-CrLC)

Acting Committee Secretary
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Queensland 4000

By email: lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Acting Committee Secretary

**Penalties and Sentences (Drug and Alcohol Treatment Orders) and Other Legislation
Amendment Bill 2017**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Penalties and Sentences (Drug and Alcohol Treatment Orders) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 (the Bill). The Queensland Law Society (QLS) appreciates being consulted on this important issue. This response has been compiled with the assistance of the Criminal Law Committee who have substantial expertise and practice in this area.

The timeframes available for making submissions on the Penalties and Sentences (Drug and Alcohol Treatment Orders) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 means that it has not been possible for the Society to conduct an exhaustive review. It is therefore possible that there are issues relating to unintended drafting consequences or fundamental legislative principles, which we have not identified.

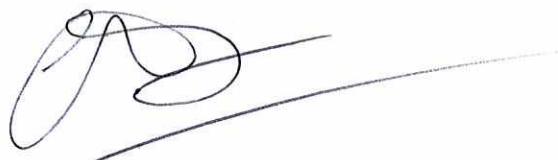
In this light of the above considerations, the Society supports the reintroduction of court diversionary processes and programs to respond to certain offenders whose criminal behaviour is linked to their severe drug or alcohol use. We consider that these processes and programs are an essential component of addressing substance related criminal activity. We hope that these evidence-based measures will assist the criminal justice system in supporting offenders with substance abuse issues and also reduce substance-fuelled crime.

The Society has been vocal in its calls for the reintroduction of the Drug Court. In line with the Drug and Specialist Courts Review, we agree that the drug court program should be enshrined in legislation.

**Penalties and Sentences (Drug and Alcohol Treatment Orders) and Other Legislation
Amendment Bill 2017**

If you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact our Advocacy team at [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Smyth', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Christine Smyth
President