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Penalties and Sentences (Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council) Amendment Bill 2016

From: To: Subject: Date:

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee LATE SUBMISSION - Penalties and Sentences (Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council) Amendment Bill 2016 Saturday - Papril 2016 :8:52:23 AM

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Please excuse the lateness of this submission.

I wish to commend the Palaszczuk government on Division 2, 201 (2) of the Penalties and Sentences (Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council) Amendment Bill 2016;

At least one member of the council must be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

As the principal petitioner of E Petition 2512-15 which closes 20/04/16 I am heartened by governments recent policies that have a community building focus and address the challenge of correcting both practice and culture;

Appointment of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander 2nd Queensland Police Service Commissioner

Queensland residents draws to the attention of the House that Queensland Police Service (QPS) Commissioned Officers appointments do not reflect the cultural diversity of the community they represent. Aboriginal people under this policing oversight have remained over represented in the justice system continuing to be a major social issue. Cultural competency of the system at all levels needs to be increased to reduce the effects of 'systemic whiteness.

I would however like to raise the following issues;

- In July 2014 the Qld government enacted the Family and Child Commission Act 2014. Division 3, s1, 11(5) of this act enshrines the principal that there must be a 2nd Commissioner appointed and that they must be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. The commission is still yet too make an announcement on the appointment of the 2nd commissioner. In July it will have been 2 years since the act was passed in parliament and the commission implemented.
- Robust inclusive community communications participation and representation should exist at all executive and statutory appointments levels. Advisory body's to these officers are of particular interest as they are not often scrutinised by regular public viewing or discussions.
- Communication systems regular scrutiny and technology updates to ensure maximum reach and participation. Parliament's response to their own audit of the house systems expected this year will be looked forward too.

Thank you for your time

Loretta Woolston

