



**Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective
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Editor's notes:

- In June 2011, the Parliament established portfolio based committees whose roles include the scrutiny and examination of Bills introduced into the Parliament.
- The Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee has responsibilities in the portfolio areas of Attorney-General and Justice, Fair Trading, Police and Community Safety.
- Ms Stone MP will be available for interviews - please call (07) 3423 2788.
- Further information is available from: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/lapcsesc or by contacting the committee secretariat on (07) 3406 7307.

Media Release

Criminal and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011

A parliamentary committee wants to hear your views on proposed changes to laws on child sex offences, animal cruelty and dangerous drugs.

The Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee is examining the Criminal and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2011. The committee must report to the Parliament by 19 March 2012.

The Bill proposes amendments to a number of Acts including:

The Criminal Code to

- increase maximum penalties for the offence of using the internet to procure a child to engage in a sexual act and to include, as an aggravating factor in that offence, conduct which involves an offender meeting the person or going to a place with the intention of meeting the person
- increase the maximum penalties for the child exploitation material offences, and to clarify that the offences apply to animated, virtual or fictitious images; and allow for the joinder of multiple offences
- introduce an aggravated offence in the sections dealing with unlawful sodomy, indecent treatment of children under 16 and carnal knowledge with or of children under 16, where the offence is committed against a child with an impairment of the mind
- provide a new offence of 'grooming'
- provide a new offence of serious animal cruelty for the unlawful killing, seriously injury or prolonged suffering of an animal with intent to inflict severe pain or suffering on the animal;

The Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 to

- increase the maximum penalty for the offence of animal cruelty to 2000 penalty units or three years imprisonment
- increase the powers of inspectors apply to investigating the new offence of serious animal cruelty
- insert a mandatory prohibition scheme and provisions relating to court prohibition orders

The Justices Act 1886 to

- allow RSPCA inspectors to commence proceedings for the new indictable offence of serious animal cruelty and the existing offence of injuring animals (subject to the DPP)

The Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to

- create a new offence of trafficking in precursors (substances used to manufacture dangerous drugs)
- amend the definition of 'dangerous drug' to capture new, untested drugs which have a similar chemical structure, and have or are intended to have a similar effect as a scheduled dangerous drug
- clarify the meaning of section 10(4), that the offence of failure to take reasonable care and precaution with a hypodermic syringe or needle does not require the needle/syringe to be used or intended to be used with respect to a dangerous drug

Public submissions on the Bill close on **Friday 23 December 2011**.

The Bill, the accompanying Explanatory Notes, and the Hansard transcript of the introduction speech are available on the committee's website at www.parliament.qld.gov.au/lapcsesc.

For further information, contact the committee secretariat on the contact details below:

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