

**Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Double Jeopardy Exception and Subsequent Appeals)
Amendment Bill 2023**

Submission No: 2 (Revised)
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Attachments:

Submitter Comments:
See attached

From: [Hannah Pocock](#)
To: [Legal Affairs and Safety Committee](#)

I 100% support this Bill and think it is critical to ensure the justice system upholds integrity. This is particularly important due to the failings of the Forensic lab in testing DNA samples. Unfortunately, the trust and faith in Queensland's forensic lab has been lost. This Bill is important to me and an issue close to my heart due to some personal circumstances that resulted in the acquittal of a perpetrator within Qld courts. This experience was extremely traumatic for my family and I and we only wish that we could turn back time and secure a conviction. Whilst DNA testing did not form part of this case, hypothetically, if a sample was involved in the Forensic Lab re-testing and DNA was found, I would want to pursue justice again and this would be made possible under the Double Jeopardy laws. I believe that for such horrific crimes (such as repeated sexual abuse of a child) be tried again in a court of law in the context of fresh and compelling evidence. We already know that going through the legal system against abuse perpetrators is extremely traumatic and often ends in a poor outcome for the survivor. This bill could provide some hope that if a perpetrator is initially acquitted but new evidence comes to light, then the survivor may be able to receive justice after all. I can only imagine the relief and validation one would have if this bill is passed and a perpetrator is convicted, particularly in restoring one's faith in the forensic and legal system. The inclusion of these crimes is a good start to rectifying and hopefully showing Queenslanders that perpetrators of abuse will not get away with crimes and victims/survivors voices are heard. This would be monumental for victim survivors who strive for years to achieve justice but being let down by a system we are meant to trust. Thank you for considering my submission.

Kind regards
Hannah