

Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Submission No: 4
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Submission to: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation
Amendment Bill 2023

I am a concerned resident of the Rockhampton region that is currently experiencing high levels of community crime.

I am against the proposal from Explanatory Notes: “Enhance the police drug diversion program through introducing drug diversion warnings, allow an eligible person an opportunity to participate in a subsequent drug diversion assessment program and the expansion of minor drug offences to include possession of prescribed quantities of any type of dangerous drug and certain pharmaceuticals”

My concerns are as follows:

- What are the benefits to the community for expanding minor drug offences to include prescribed quantities of any type of dangerous drug?
- What is the deterrent to stop potential people from taking drugs?
- How affective will this bill be when some dangerous drugs are highly addictive and users may not be able to stop taking the drug?
- How will this bill impact crime levels in the community, especially when drug users are trying to fund their habit?
- Drug use in our community has serious impacts to the user and community members, how effective will this bill be towards reducing damage to our communities?
- Why aren't drug rehabilitation programs being made mandatory for anyone caught using dangerous drugs?
- What will be the future impacts of this bill towards community safety?

I cannot see the point of why serious drugs being used by offenders should be deemed and treated as a minor drug offence. Some of these drugs are highly addictive and just a onetime experience could lead to a lifetime of problems for the user.

The impacts to the community is a higher rate of crime from drug users trying to fund their drug habit, as the costs I believe would be a lot higher than just a packet of cigarettes, to purchase dangerous drugs.

There should be a disincentive for people to not use dangerous drugs as prevention is always better than a cure, so laws should reflect the seriousness of dangerous drug use and there should be no options for the caught offender in regards to going to drug rehabilitation programs.

Serious drugs affect an individual's ability to make rational decisions, lead to higher risk taking and can lead to mental problems, what is going to stop an individual from getting behind the wheel of a motor vehicle and using it as a weapon on our roads, putting their lives and that of the communities lives at risk?

Please consider my concerns, as prevention is always better than a cure.

Stopping people from taking dangerous drugs should be the main principle theme of this bill, not pushing dangerous drugs into a minor offence category.