




Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2017

**CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.18 pm): I rise to make a very short contribution to the Criminal Law Amendment Bill 2016. First of all, let me thank the committee members and, in particular, the chair at the time, the member for Ferny Grove, for the bipartisan way of dealing with this matter—until just a moment ago anyway—and the secretariat for the work they put in to assist the committee in their deliberations.

The bill amends 11 pieces of legislation including the Bail Act, the Criminal Code, the Criminal Proceeds Confiscation Act, the Director of Public Prosecutions Act, the Drugs Misuse Act and the Telecommunications Interception Act among others. It is quite broad and quite far reaching. I note the consultation on the bill by the government with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, the Bar Association of Queensland, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Legal Aid Queensland, LGBTI Legal Service—or Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans Intersex Legal Service Inc.—and the Queensland Law Society.

On the other hand, the committee spent quite a considerable amount of time poring over various submissions. A total of nine submissions were provided to us including those from individuals, as has already been mentioned. They included solicitor Stephen Page as well as organisations right across the spectrum. Protect All Children Today, or PACT, was one of those. There was also the Brisbane LGBTIQ Action Group, the Anti-Discrimination Commission of Queensland, Australian Christian Lobby and the Queensland Law Society once again made a submission for our consideration among others. We also had several witnesses at the public hearing including Mr Thomas Clark, Director of Law Reform; Mr Phil Browne, the convenor of Brisbane LGBTIQ Action Group, Mr Bill Potts and Ms Binny De Saram from the Queensland Law Society and once again Mr Stephen Page as well as the Australian Christian Lobby.

The current government and also the previous government commenced on this road to reform in 2014 in a bipartisan way, as I mentioned, up until a few moments ago when the previous speaker decided she would bring it back into Labor's camp and not acknowledge at all any of the work that was done by the previous LNP government on a bipartisan basis in this House back in 2014. We just have to live with that sort of thing from time to time.

The reality is that the only issue that we were unable to come to total agreement on as a committee was around that issue of clause 10, and that has been spoken about by all contributors so far. However, we did agree as a committee that clause 10 of the bill should be reviewed in five years to establish whether clause 10 has operated as intended. As has been alluded to by the member for Mansfield, the non-government members also believed it would be beneficial for the Attorney-General to further consult with the QLS and the Bar Association in relation to the terminology of 'circumstances of exceptional character' with a view to perhaps providing some examples in the bill. In fact, we did ask the QLS as a committee if they would provide us with some examples and some assistance in that regard, and they were good enough to provide that material to the committee.

I am going to close on that note. It is incumbent on this House to bring this bill to a swift conclusion on a bipartisan basis. I commend the member for Mansfield for advising the House that he will be moving amendments in relation to clause 10 during consideration in detail.