




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 20 February 2020

COMMUNITY BASED SENTENCES (INTERSTATE TRANSFER) BILL

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (12.50 pm): I rise today to make my contribution to the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill 2019. This bill creates a new standalone act in Queensland to implement a Corrective Services Ministers' Conference agreement to establish a nationally consistent legislative scheme to facilitate the interstate transfer of community based sentences. In addition to this, the bill extends existing legislation in place to facilitate the interstate transfer of prisoners and parolees to community based offenders. That is what this bill is actually about.

In doing so, it facilitates Queensland's participation in the national scheme, joining Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory. This bill supports our government's commitment to keep communities safe as outlined in Our Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities, and enhances the flexibility of community based sentences by providing a formal process for offenders to have their sentence transferred, registered and managed interstate. That is what this bill is actually about.

I commend this government for upholding their commitment as well as key stakeholders for the time and resources they generously continued to provide during consultation on this legislative reform. It is important to note that these stakeholders supported and welcomed this bill.

The key objective of the bill is to improve the current management of offenders across a shared border. As outlined by the member for Morayfield, the honourable Minister for Police and Corrective Services, the management of offenders across the Queensland and New South Wales border is particularly difficult as well as unsustainable, presenting a number of risks that are resolved through this bill. I will say again that this is what this bill is actually about.

There are several reasons why this government wants to improve the current system. Without an efficient transfer system many offenders may be far from their families and community support, unable to escape domestic violence or face little to no access to employment or study opportunities. We know that many prisoners and people who have been convicted have not had the life we have been fortunate to have. However, this reform will mean that the aforementioned opportunities can be realised by offenders and we will see a lower rate of reoffending due to a stronger support system.

As a former principal and teacher, I am no stranger to what an excellent support system can achieve. I have seen severely disadvantaged students thrive as a result of the resources, mentoring and opportunities that a school can provide. This outcome is no different for offenders; however, adequate support must be provided for them to be positively reintegrated into our society.

I am proud to be part of a government that is so committed to the rehabilitation of our citizens. The involvement of Queensland in this scheme also highlights the contribution this state is making to support a cohesive national approach to corrective services provision and enforcement. I am also very proud of government members who, as they stand before the House to deliver their speeches, are able to differentiate between Corrective Services and the police department. I commend this bill to the House.

