




Speech By
Peter Russo
MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

Record of Proceedings, 26 May 2022

INSPECTOR OF DETENTION SERVICES BILL

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (5.57 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Inspector of Detention Services Bill 2021. The main objective of the bill is to give effect to the Queensland government's commitment to establish an independent inspectorate to promote and uphold the humane treatment and conditions of people detained in prisons, community corrections centres, such as the Helana Jones Centre, work camps, youth detention centres, police watch houses and other places of detention. The bill also addresses recommendations from a number of reviews into the Queensland criminal justice system including: the Independent Review of Youth Detention, the Queensland Parole System Review; *Taskforce Flaxton: an examination of corruption risks and corruption in Queensland prisons*; and the Queensland Productivity Commission's report entitled *Inquiry into imprisonment and recidivism*.

The committee in its report No. 21, which was tabled in the assembly on 21 January, has recommended to the Assembly that the bill be passed. This bill gives effect to the Queensland government's commitment to establish an independent inspectorate to promote and uphold the humane treatment and conditions of people detained in prisons, community corrections centres, work camps, youth detention centres and police watch houses. The purpose of the Inspector of Detention Services is to facilitate greater transparency and accountability in the way that places of detention, and the people detained within them, are managed. The focus of the inspector will be on the prevention of harm and this focus will examine the systems and the lived experiences of people detained.

Since 2016, there have been a number of reviews into the Queensland criminal justice system which have recommended the establishment of an independent inspector over adult correctional services, youth detention centres and/or police watch houses. There is currently no single body whose primary function is the independent oversight over places of detention and detention services through a system of regular inspections and reviews, with the aim of promoting and upholding the humane treatment and conditions of detained persons.

The committee invited both government and non-government stakeholders across a range of sectors to make written submissions on the bill. As part of their examination, the bill—

Debate, on motion of Mr Russo, adjourned.