




Speech By  
**Corrine McMillan**

**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2023

**CHILD PROTECTION (OFFENDER REPORTING AND OFFENDER PROHIBITION ORDER) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (4.30 pm): I rise in support of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. As chair of the Community Support and Services Committee, I want to thank those individuals and organisations who made written submissions on the bill. The committee's task was to consider the policy to be achieved by the legislation and the application of the fundamental legislative principles, as well as the bill's compatibility with the Human Rights Act 2019. The committee made two recommendations: that the bill be passed; and the Minister for Police and Corrective Services encourage the Commonwealth government to continue data sharing arrangements in relation to child sex offenders and monitor the movement of child sex offenders across jurisdictions.

Principally, this bill continues to expand on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to ensuring that the Queensland Police Service has more resources and stronger laws. We all know that our technological world is rapidly evolving. We witness it on a daily basis. We know that those predators who would seek to do harm to others in our community are adapting their methods to use this technology to their advantage. On this side of the House, we recognise the importance of this bill because we know it will provide the police with the necessary additional detection, investigative and enforcement powers they need to disrupt the efforts of those who target our most vulnerable—our children.

Among other things, this bill will assist in dealing with the advent of anonymising software and black hole or vault applications by requiring reportable offenders to report the possession or use of this software as a personal detail under schedule 2 of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004. Furthermore, this bill will expand the relevant prescribed offences for the purpose of a device inspection, ensuring that reportable offenders who have been convicted of these offences are subject to a higher level of monitoring by police, as they should be.

I turn now to the minister's comments in relation to the proposed amendments to be moved during consideration in detail of this bill, particularly with regard to the repeal of certain offences under the Summary Offences Act 2005. On 31 September 2022 the Community Support and Services Committee table report No. 23 titled *Towards a healthier, safer, more just and compassionate Queensland: decriminalising the offences affecting those most vulnerable*. The report made 16 recommendations.

As the deputy chair of the committee indicated, the committee was very proud of the 16 recommendations made to the government in relation to the decriminalisation of the three summary offences. Perhaps chiefly among those recommendations, the committee recommended that the offences at section 8, begging in a public place; section 10, being intoxicated in a public place; and section 7, urinating in a public place of the Summary Offences Act 2005 should be repealed, subject to the appropriate community-based diversion services being in place. In making this recommendation, the committee recognised that these offences disproportionately affect persons experiencing periods of vulnerability and are our most marginalised Queenslanders and that Queensland is currently the last jurisdiction in the nation where they are criminalised.

I welcome the Palaszczuk government's considered and pragmatic approach to addressing the issues identified by the committee during its inquiry. Those of us on this side of the House will always work to ensure security, safety and equitable treatment for our most vulnerable. As we now commence down the Path to Treaty, it is vital that we address these injustices so that we can move towards a more just, fair and compassionate Queensland. I commend this bill and the proposed amendments to the House.