



Speech By  
**Corrine McMillan**

**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**


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Record of Proceedings, 6 March 2024

**CRIMINAL LAW (COERCIVE CONTROL AND AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT) AND  
OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; CRIMINAL CODE AND OTHER  
LEGISLATION (DOUBLE JEOPARDY EXCDEPTION AND SUBSEQUENT  
APPEALS) AMENDMENT BILL**

Resumed from 5 March (see p. 417), on motion of Ms Fentiman—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (11.23 am), continuing: Improving this definition also means that our legislation will be more consistent with other Australian jurisdictions. More consistent language surrounding this definition will benefit the smooth implementation of a national respectful relationship towards consent. At this point in time I will share with the House that over many years a number of young people have raised the issue of consent with me. As members can imagine, being the leader of some very big schools in my time as principal there were many student situations where unfortunate events happened. The issue of consent was a concern of both male and female students over many years and they would often say to me, 'Is there some way that we can affirm consent through an app, through our signature, through some way of demonstrating our consent or otherwise to incidences or interactions with each other?' Clearly over many years young people have been asking for this as the issue of consent has been a concern to them, and we know that situations of consent only involve two people generally in a private situation. My message to our young people right across Queensland is that we do now have the answer and the strategy is the law of this state. The law of this state will ensure that affirmative consent is required before any of those interactions take place. There will be many young people—particularly women and women of all ages across Queensland—who require that guidance and require that support who will now have the law and the legal context for that consent.

Our government has listened to stakeholders over many years, we have listened to the experts and we have listened to victim-survivors and we have responded. This bill is changing the way we think about consent and changing how the criminal justice system responds to coercive control. Above all, this bill is about protecting and restoring justice for the women and girls who have been let down by this system time and time again. It is truly an honour to be part of a government that is tackling such an important social issue in our time. To all those affected by sexual or domestic and family violence and to those of you who had the courage to speak out, our government hears you, our government listens to you and our government supports you. I acknowledge the committee which has done so much tireless work to bring this bill to the House, the department and great female leaders like Justice McMurdo and others, Dame Quentin Bryce and the many other women in Queensland who have led this charge. I certainly commend their work, I commend their leadership and I commend this bill to the House.