




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2024

QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.54 pm): In rising to speak to the bill this evening I want to focus my contribution on the part of the bill that, as the corrective services minister mentioned, I have had a large part in advocating for over a number of years. I am very proud and excited on behalf of my community to see the service of DFV documents by corrective services officers included in the legislation tonight.

The bill maintains existing arrangements whereby police officers are empowered to personally serve documents to prisoners in correctional centres but introduces the option of engaging a corrective services officer to serve those prescribed domestic and family violence documents to prisoners. The bill facilitates a trial arrangement that can be implemented at one or more correctional centres approved by the commissioner of Queensland Corrective Services. This amendment streamlines those service requirements, allowing for prisoners to engage with officers who would ordinarily serve them a range of other documents in their correctional centre environment. It reduces the challenges and, of course, the wasted time and the time spent by police officers in serving documents, especially, but not limited to, when a prisoner refuses a visit which ultimately impacts on that prisoner's ability to seek legal advice.

This trial is so important to me and to my community because my community police station at Mount Ommaney services the Wacol prison precinct, which consists of a number of prisons based in the Wacol area. A number of years ago my local police explained to me that, despite knowing exactly where those offenders are, it can be incredibly time consuming and may take a number of visits by the police, which have to be prearranged with the corrective services facility, to actually serve those documents. Servicing the entire Wacol prison precinct for my Mount Ommaney Police Station is actually a considerable amount of their work. It is a considerable burden on my local police station, which is why I am so delighted and so grateful to see this pilot proceeding. For my community the tangible effects are very real. It will mean we will have more police available in our community because they will not need to serve those documents in our prison precinct so regularly. Those police, of course, will be able to keep our community safe.

I want to thank very deeply the local police in my Mount Ommaney station for their persistence and advocacy over a number of years. They did a wonderful job of bringing up this issue and explaining very clearly the tangible benefits that our community would receive: essentially a boost in the number of police officers who will be available to service our community because they would not need to service the Wacol precinct so comprehensively. I also want to thank the Together union for raising the concerns they did. It is really important that we get this trial right. I also would like to thank my staff who worked on this issue and were very persistent, especially my electorate officer Rachel, who really beavered away on getting this issue across the line, along with our local police. I will leave my contribution there. I commend the bill to the House.