




Speech By
Peter Russo
MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

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**POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL; CORRECTIVE SERVICES (PROMOTING SAFETY) AND
OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.17 pm): I rise to speak to the cognate bills being debated today: the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Both of the committees that conducted hearings on these bills have recommended that the bills be passed. I will now deal with some aspects of the bills.

The objective of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is to make the necessary amendments to ensure that trans and gender diverse people receive the same protections as other Queenslanders in legislation without making specific reference to gendered language, unless absolutely necessary. In making the necessary amendments, the bill aims to achieve operational improvements in legislation administered by the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and Queensland Health.

The main objectives of the Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill are to: enhance the Queensland Corrective Services' victims support; require representation for the victims on the Parole Board Queensland; strengthen powers to respond to abuse of prisoner communication channels; enable the use of certain police powers for reportable child sex offenders being supervised under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act; increase the penalty for possession of a gel blaster on corrective services land; protect the use of victim and intelligence information to support effective decision-making; clarify the authority for corrective services officers to use body worn cameras while in the community; prescribe search requirements to accommodate diverse prisoner needs; update legislative requirements to support the independence, diversity and efficient administration of the board; enable Queensland Corrective Services to lawfully detain prisoners from Norfolk Island in line with the Queensland government's commitments under the Intergovernmental Partnership Agreement on State Service Delivery to Norfolk Island; and, in other minor and technical issues, support the continued safe operations of corrective services.

I will now speak to the investigations done into the Corrective Services (Promoting Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee. This bill is about supporting victims of crime and enhancing safety in Queensland's correctional system. The bill would promote safety for victims and their families, safety for corrective services officers and safety for offenders. The key issues raised during the committee's examination of the bill included: withholding sensitive decision-making information in parole decisions; use of regulation and changes to same-sex safeguards in relation to invasive searches; privacy issues relating to the use of body worn cameras; police powers for reportable child sex offenders; victim representation on the Parole Board Queensland; and restrictions on prisoner communications.

Stakeholder consultation revealed shortfalls in how victims of crime are represented, supported and protected within this system. The committee heard how the safety of victims can be jeopardised if sensitive victim information is provided to offenders as part of the parole process. While there are many parts to this good reforming legislation, I will conclude my contribution on the debate and recommend to the House that these cognate bills be passed.