



Speech By
Hon. Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2025

**PENALTIES AND SENTENCES (SEXUAL OFFENCES) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025**

Second Reading

 **Hon. AJ CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.41 pm): I am pleased to contribute to the Penalties and Sentences (Sexual Offences) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The Crisafulli government is continuing to deliver on our promises, doing what we said we would, and we are continuing to put victims first. This bill is yet another example of our government's proactive approach to supporting victims of crime who for so long had been failed and were ignored by the former Miles Labor government. I want to congratulate the Attorney-General and fellow victims ministers in particular on the important reforms that the Crisafulli government has driven and also the Attorney-General's responsiveness to QSAC's report into sentencing for sexual assault and rape offences in Queensland.

As outlined in this debate, four of QSAC's recommendations relate to specific amendments to the Penalties and Sentences Act. The Crisafulli government has responded swiftly and appropriately and this bill implements each of these recommendations, ensuring sentencing guidelines reflect community expectations and, most importantly, protect victim-survivors. Sentences should consider if sexual offences are committed against a vulnerable child, sentences should consider harm to a victim, being a 'good bloke' should not be a stock-standard defence for a sexual offender, and victims should be able to choose whether they would like to provide a statement to the court without fearing their decision will benefit the offender.

Despite this responsive, common-sense, calm and methodical approach, the Labor opposition has remained obsessed with political stunts. One would think after almost 11 months in opposition they might have taken time to reflect, to listen to victims and to listen to Queenslanders. Instead they remain as out of touch as ever. Firstly, they have tried to claim credit for these changes, pushing their own sloppy amendments through the House for a media grab. They had a decade to put victims first, but instead they watered down our youth justice laws, sat on their hands as victims of crime rates grew and when it comes to survivors of rape or sexual assault those opposite did nothing. They have failed in meeting their duty of care when it came to the DNA lab debacle that the Attorney-General is working each and every day to sort out.

Labor tried to rush this bill through the House, blocking victims from the opportunity to have their say via the committee process. After being thrown out of government, not listening to victims, it is truly shocking to see that 11 months later they have not changed, nor learned or listened to the voice of victims. But it does not stop there. In their statement of reservation the Labor opposition criticised the Crisafulli government for not providing a written response to QSAC's recommendations. A report was delivered to a brand new government in December with the recommendations being implemented

through legislation introduced six months later. We are moving at a pace and in a way that is supporting victim-survivors. Those opposite do not hold a record that has any credibility. In particular, when we look back at their record, the Reportable Conduct Scheme has been nothing but a debacle.

I turn now to the bill's changes to the working with children act. These amendments largely go towards cleaning up Labor's errors. As described by the QFCC—

These changes, while procedural in nature, are vital for legal clarity and operational consistency.

...

and represents a significant step forward in enhancing Queensland's working with children check framework.

Interestingly, the QFCC principal commissioner also notes that these amendments will implement recommendations in its 2017 review of the blue card system. He stated—

Sitting here being prepared to speak to a report that the institution I now lead conducted in 2017 represents a very significant timeframe for a government response to act on recommendations.

Mr Twyford also stated—

it is important that government responses to a review are timely.

There you go: we have the Crisafulli government being responsive to QSAC and to the QFCC's recommendations made in 2017.

For the last five years I have spoken many times in this House on behalf of constituents of many MPs who have reached out to me, when I was formerly the shadow minister and now as the minister, to tell me of their experience with the justice system and their experience with the DNA lab debacle. I heard from those opposite in this debate that justice delayed is justice denied. What I cannot comprehend is that those opposite come in and rewrite history. Justice has still been delayed and has still been denied for hundreds of rape victims: those who could not adequately access a rape kit because they were so outdated or there was no-one adequately trained in a health service to perform a forensic examination. They sat in the middle of the DNA debacle and did nothing that was in the interests of victims or rape survivors, some of those victims are children and people living with a disability.

For the record, the Crisafulli government is taking action to make sure victims have access to justice and that justice can be served. Only a Crisafulli government can put victims first and clean up the mess that has been left by the Labor government. Never will I miss an opportunity to remind members of this House, victim-survivors and those in our community of the women that I have sat with who have physical, psychological and emotional lifelong damage and are still awaiting justice because of the failures of those opposite. I commend the Attorney-General on her work and her efforts, not just in this bill but in the entire justice system, and I commend the bill to the House.