




Speech By  
**Hon. David Crisafulli**  
**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 April 2025

## **MAKING QUEENSLAND SAFER (ADULT CRIME ADULT TIME) AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Introduction**

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.59 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Youth Justice Act 1992 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025 [282](#).

*Tabled paper:* Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025, explanatory notes [283](#).

*Tabled paper:* Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025, statement of compatibility with human rights [284](#).

I am proud to stand and introduce the next stage of our Making Queensland Safer Laws, because this government is committed to turning the tide on the youth crime crisis left behind. We are committed to victims. As the member for Capalaba has just bravely shared, we will keep putting them front and centre.

Before Christmas, we passed the first tranche of the Making Queensland Safer Laws to implement Adult Crime, Adult Time for youth offenders. This was a direct result of this government listening to victims and listening to the community who were crying out for change—genuine change that will drive down youth offending and reduce the number of victims in our community.

The new laws implemented the Adult Crime, Adult Time sentencing scheme that ensures young offenders who commit serious offences face adult level consequences for their actions. Establishment of these tough penalties demonstrates youth offending is treated seriously by those on this side of the House. When I first introduced our Adult Crime, Adult Time laws last year, I said that our government's top priority was bringing Queensland's youth crime crisis to an end. That remains true, and the bill I present today delivers on our commitment to further strengthen the Making Queensland Safer Laws.

Exactly as promised, we established the Expert Legal Panel to advise government on what additional offences should be included under the Adult Crime, Adult Time provisions. The job of this panel is to provide advice to this government so that we can continue to implement our commitment to making Queensland safer. That is what they have delivered in this stage.

The Expert Legal Panel recommended the addition of 20 serious offences. This bill amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 by adding these new serious offences to the Adult Crime, Adult Time provisions, making young offenders liable to the same penalties as adults. These amendments will be in addition to the initial 13 serious offences that commenced on 13 December last year, further implementing the government's commitment to making Queensland safer. More advice from the panel will follow in the coming months. Several minor and technical amendments are also included to ensure the intent of the Making Queensland Safer Laws is delivered.

The explanatory notes and statement of compatibility with human rights emphasise that the purpose of adding further serious offences to Adult Crime, Adult Time is to ensure community safety. The amendments send a strong message to the community that youth offending will be treated seriously and ensure that courts can impose appropriate penalties that meet community expectations.

We went to the election promising to deliver the Making Queensland Safer Laws. Those laws make sure that detention is no longer a last resort for youth offenders and that the impact on victims is a primary consideration during sentencing. The laws are bolstered by investment in early intervention and rehabilitation to break the cycle of youth crime and ultimately reduce the number of victims, because that is what this is all about. We are starting to see the green shoots of change in the right direction. It is only the beginning, but it is the change we need to be seeing.

Across Queensland between 1 December and 28 February, compared to the same period the previous year, we have seen an 8.2 per cent reduction in stolen cars, an 8.4 per cent reduction in break-ins, a 4.8 per cent reduction in robberies and a 16.9 per cent reduction in woundings. This is just the beginning. We have a lot of work to do. We must turn around 10 years of the former government weakening the system and a generation of offenders being told again and again there are no consequences. No more. No more will victims be put last on that consideration list. No more will offenders be told there is no consequence.

The amendments in the bill presented today are strong and necessary and give effect to the government's promise to the people of Queensland that Queenslanders will feel safe in their communities because they deserve to feel safe. We have chosen an approach that allows for the targeted inclusion of certain offences that meet a threshold that is directly related to the seriousness of harm caused, the use of violence associated with the offending behaviour and the risk of serious consequences to the victim and to the community.

I turn to the bill itself. Clause 5 adds 20 serious offences—including the three where only certain aggravated forms of the offences are prescribed—to section 175A of the Youth Justice Act. This means that the following sections will now be subject to the Adult Crime, Adult Time sentencing scheme: section 69, going armed so as to cause fear; section 75, threatening violence; section 306, attempt to murder; section 307, accessory after the fact to murder; section 313(2), assaulting a pregnant person and killing, or doing grievous bodily harm to or transmitting a serious disease to, the unborn child; section 320A, torture; section 328C, damaging an emergency vehicle when operating motor vehicle; section 328D, endangering a police officer when driving motor vehicle; section 349, rape; section 350, attempt to commit rape; section 351, assault with intent to commit rape; section 352(2), sexual assault involving any part of the mouth; section 352(3), sexual assault while armed, in company or involving penetration; section 354, kidnapping; section 354A, kidnapping for ransom; section 355, deprivation of liberty; section 398 item 12, stealing of a vehicle; section 398 item 14, stealing a firearm for use in another indictable offence; section 412(2), attempted robbery, armed or in company; section 412(3), attempted robbery, armed and with violence; section 461, arson; section 462, endangering particular property by fire; and, from the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, section 5, trafficking in dangerous drugs.

The amendments work the same as the previous tranche of Adult Crime, Adult Time offences, removing constraints upon courts in the sentencing of young offenders who commit serious crimes. This focus on consequences for offenders is crucial to ensuring the number of victims in our community decreases. The impacts of these offences are deep, long-lasting and often have serious consequences for the victims. We heard about that a moment ago. We have heard this from the member for Capalaba, and we have heard it time and time again when victims have raised their voice for change. The grief, loss, fear, anger—they live with that every day.

Inclusion of these new offences into the Adult Crime, Adult Time scheme shows a priority by this government for community safety and community expectations being met. Governing is about choices: denying a crisis or acting; weakening laws or strengthening them; prioritising criminals or prioritising victims. We choose fewer victims.

Importantly, this bill does not remove the remit of courts to apply sentences proportionately; it simply makes children who offend seriously liable to the same maximum, minimum and mandatory penalties as adults. Many of the offences we are introducing into the Adult Crime, Adult Time provisions are life offences. This means that where a child is sentenced to imprisonment for life they must now serve a minimum non-parole period of 15 years. This is an important aspect of protecting the community from serious violence and harm. I must be clear that we have not taken these decisions lightly. However, the commitment of this government to victims and the safety of our community is paramount.

I now turn to the second purpose of this bill, which is to make minor and technical amendments to ensure this government is consistent in its implementation of legislative provisions related to the Making Queensland Safer Laws. These technical amendments ensure the purpose of the Youth Justice Act is clear to our courts and to our community. That is important.

Clauses 6 to 9 amend a part of the victims register provisions. This will ensure that victims will have a right to nominate a person to receive information on their behalf. Where it is not appropriate for a victim to be on the register—for example, where there is a domestic and family violence situation—they can opt to have any information sent to their nominated person. This amendment demonstrates this government's commitment to placing victims and their needs at the forefront of our criminal justice system, in a holistic manner.

Finally, clause 4 relates to an unrelated error in the legislation that was identified by the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel. It involves a simple removal of a part of section 50 of the Youth Justice Act so that it is not in conflict with the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act, and the related section which is no longer operable after the decriminalisation of public intoxication.

Our government is putting victims at the heart of our plans for a safer Queensland. These new laws will make Queensland safer by ensuring young people committing serious adult crimes will serve adult time. I commend the bill to the House.

### **First Reading**

**Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (3.09 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### **Referral to Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee**

**Mr SPEAKER:** In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee.