




Speech By
Hon. Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2025

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Anti-Discrimination Laws

 **Hon. DK FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity) (10.07 am): The Crisafulli government took to the election a commitment to consult with stakeholders on anti-discrimination laws. Today I am updating the House on the next steps in that process. Anti-discrimination laws are important to protect vulnerable people, and that is why it is important we get them right. During the final days of the Miles Labor tenure those opposite rushed through parliament the Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Act which made major changes to the Anti-Discrimination Act. While some of those changes are now in place, many of the remaining changes are due to come into effect on 1 July this year.

When I first came in as Attorney-General the Department of Justice raised serious concerns with me after consulting other government departments. The department told me that it was particularly concerned that the new protected attributes for discrimination, including a relevant criminal record, could impact statutory decision-making schemes. Of key concern is whether the new attribute will undermine several high-risk discretionary decisions, including decisions relating to weapons licensing, police protection notices and security provider licensing.

Reforming discrimination law is a difficult and complex process that attracts significant stakeholder interest, which is why it should not have been rushed through by the former Labor government. I am extremely concerned with the prospect of some very serious unintended and unwanted consequences.

I am mindful of creating an unnecessary burden on organisations and institutions already taking steps to try to comply with those reforms. The rushed laws did not predict the implementation issues. The current commencement date does not allow sufficient time for consultation or policy work, which if not undertaken will inevitably lead to further legislative fixes. Given the importance the Crisafulli government places on protecting Queenslanders from harassment and vilification, it is crucial to ensure our laws are fit for purpose. The government will therefore be progressing amendments to delay the commencement of these reforms until a date set by proclamation. The amendments to adjust the commencement date will come before the parliament in the coming months. Implementing a pause will allow sufficient time for the Department of Justice to undertake policy work while we consult with stakeholders. This fulfils another election commitment and is further evidence that this is a government that does exactly what we said we would do.