

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 245

Asked on 1 April 2025

HON D FARMER ASKED MINISTER FOR YOUTH JUSTICE AND VICTIM SUPPORT AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES (HON L GERBER)

QUESTION:

With reference to the 'Making Queensland Safer Laws: Expert Legal Panel' (the Panel) chaired by Ms April Freeman KC—

Will the Minister advise (a) the total number of submissions received by the Panel to date, (b) whether these submissions will be released publicly, and if not why not and (c) the dates the Panel has met and who attended the meetings?

ANSWER:

The Crisafulli Government is committed to restoring safety in Queensland homes, workplaces, and communities. This is a vital part of the Making Queensland Safer Plan. That is why the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024 was the first bill introduced by the Crisafulli Government in the 58th Queensland Parliament. The appointed panel is committed to carefully and methodically considering each decision that contribute meaningfully to stronger laws that focus on community safety and meet community expectations.

The panel examined the 189 submissions made to the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Parliamentary Committee on the Making Queensland Safer Laws; conducted 10 stakeholder sessions with representatives from the legal, domestic and family violence, youth justice, first nations groups from across the State; examined well over 200 journal articles and stakeholder reports; and wrote to over 125 stakeholders including peak bodies across the sector inviting submissions. A further twenty-five detailed submissions of considerable volume were received. The Panel is continuing its deliberations into additional recommendations that will include consideration of current and any future written submissions. The basis as to consent to disclose to other parties upon which those submissions were received is not known. Issues of consent to release, privilege and potential Cabinet-in-Confidence matters cannot be considered until the Panels deliberations are finalised.

The Expert Legal Panel has held numerous teleconferences and held formal meetings on 24 February, 10, 19 and 28 March 2025. The meetings were attended by the Chair, Secretariat and panel members. The Minister attended the meeting on 24 February 2025 for a brief period and the Director-General, Department of Youth Justice and Victim Support briefly attended meetings on the 24 February and 10 March 2025.

The Crisafulli Government supports the critical and necessary work of the expert legal panel. Early data is showing encouraging signs that our commitment to community

safety is delivering real and positive outcomes and we look forward to the panel's careful, evidence-based consideration to strengthening laws in Queensland.