

Legislative Council

Hansard

Thursday 11 December 2025

The President, Mr Farrell, took the Chair at 11 a.m., acknowledged the Traditional People and read Prayers.

[excerpt...]

SENTENCING AMENDMENT (AGGRAVATING OFFENCES) BILL 2025 (No. 41)

Second Reading

[4.55 p.m.]

Ms WEBB (Nelson) – Mr President, I rise to speak very briefly on the bill because I appreciate the contributions made by other members already. I particularly thank you, member for Hobart, for going into such a lot of detail about it and addressing some of the matters that had been raised for discussion on the bill. I too want to acknowledge that this is such a good bill for us to be dealing with and it's such a pleasure for us to complete the bill to some extent today; again, we will have that conversation later, no doubt, and it is partly because I see this bill as a good example of how good policy should get translated then into legislation and then out into implementation.

We've seen the Sentencing Advisory Council come with recommendations and lay the groundwork for this. We've then seen a working group put together of people who have relevant lived experience and insights into this contribute into shaping and forming the specifics of it. The consultation occurred that further shaped things and improved the bill. We have before us now a worthwhile bill to consider and that's incredibly positive. So I congratulate those who've been involved along each step of the way, but I particularly congratulate the community advocates who have tirelessly worked for this and ensured that it stayed on the agenda and was progressed, although it did have some delays along the way, particularly again, also acknowledging in the Chamber with us, Eamon Jaffrey and Rodney Croome as two people who fit into that category of people who've been tirelessly working to see this come about.

As has been noted to us, this bill won't necessarily prevent hate, but it will hold it to account more effectively. That's the potential it has. I do think that it does also represent a statement from us as a community and from us as a parliament about what we accept and what we don't accept and what we condone and what we don't condone. That is important over time, working towards prevention. That does help shape culture. It might not specifically prevent instances of hate crimes because this deals with when that's already occurred, but as a cultural statement, it's an important contribution towards prevention as well.

I won't go into detail that has already been covered by others, but I am interested also in the implementation end of this, and we know that that will be important when it comes to being successful in achieving the outcomes we want it to achieve. We know and had heard through briefings that how this is brought forward by our police force and the training that's there around that, what we will learn about the use of this new sentencing provision, what we will learn about it through the collection of data will be important, because the bill does have a review clause there for potentially five years' time, I believe it is.

That will be important too, to know whether we got it right with the way things have been framed up in this bill. The intention is good. The evidence base was good. The contribution from relevant lived-experience advocates has been good; but we won't necessarily know that it's working well until we do that review, and we won't be able to do that review well unless we've had solid implementation planning, training planning and data collection through the implementation of this.

I'm interested probably to hear a little bit about that on the record here from the government to help us have confidence in that, but other than that, I'm very pleased to be supporting the bill today. If we do come to have the discussion later about completing the bill today with a third reading, that will be a conversation for then, but I will be consistent in the view I've expressed all day.

Mr President. I support the bill.