



Honourable Deb Frecklington MP  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice  
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Our ref: 572305/10, 7307925

Your ref: 4184-24

17 MAR 2025

Mr Neil Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I refer to e-Petition 4184-24 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 18 February 2025 titled Age of criminal responsibility.

I acknowledge the petitioners' concerns that laws relating to the age and status of children should be consistent across jurisdictions. The Crisafulli Government firmly believes that Queenslanders deserve to feel safe in their communities, their homes and their businesses. Unfortunately, some children jeopardise Queenslanders' right to feel safe when they commit crimes. That is why the Crisafulli Government will not raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in Queensland.

I note that there is a rebuttable presumption in Queensland that a child aged between 10 and 14 years is not criminally responsible for an offence. The presumption requires the prosecution to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the child had capacity to know that they ought not commit the offence in order for the child to be held criminally responsible for an offence. In this way, the law balances the need to ensure there are consequences for actions, with the need to make sure that young children are only held liable for offending when they can understand what they are doing is wrong.

I thank the petitioners for bringing their concerns to the attention of the House.

Yours sincerely

**DEB FRECKLINGTON MP**  
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice  
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