

Submission to the Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025 consultation

This document is a submission about a new law being proposed in Queensland. The law is called the **Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025**.

The submission was written by the **Community Restorative Centre (CRC)** and others.

What is the law about?

Right now, people in Queensland prisons can vote **if their sentence is less than 3 years**.

The new law would change this. If the law passes, only people with a sentence of **less than 1 year** would be allowed to vote.

This means **fewer people in prison would be able to vote**.

What does CRC think?

CRC does **not support** this law.

CRC believes the law should **not go ahead**.

Why does CRC oppose the law?

CRC gives many reasons:

- The law would **unfairly affect some communities more than others**, especially **First Nations** people, who are already over-represented in prison.
- The law would **take away people's democratic rights**, including the right to vote.
- The law may **break international human rights laws**.
- People in prison who would be most affected **were not properly consulted** and do not have a real chance to share their views.

What does CRC recommend?

CRC recommends that the government abandon the Bill and keep current voting rights for people in prison.