1. As part of its *Six Month Action Plan* the Queensland Government committed to amend laws to address: *“synthetic drugs, penalties for child pornography and some child sex offences, including a new child grooming offence”.*
2. Key provisions of the Criminal Law (Child Exploitation and Dangerous Drugs) Amendment Bill 2012 deliver on these commitments by:
	* amending the Criminal Code to:
		+ amend the definition of ‘child exploitation material’ in section 207A to ensure animated or virtual images of children are caught by the definition;
		+ provide a new offence of ‘grooming’, carrying a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment or 10 years if the child is under 12, to target persons who engage in the ‘grooming’ of a child to facilitate the procurement of the child for sexual activity;
		+ increase the maximum penalties for the child exploitation material offences: from five years to 14 years imprisonment for the offence of possession (section 228D); and 10 years to 14 years imprisonment for the offences of involving a child in the making of child exploitation material (section 228A), making child exploitation material (section 228B) and distributing child exploitation material (section 228C); and
		+ increase the maximum penalty for the offence of using the internet to procure children under 16 to engage in a sexual act (section 218A) from five years to 10 years imprisonment; increase the maximum penalty for the aggravated form of the offence (child under 12 years) from 10 years to 14 years imprisonment; and create a new circumstance of aggravation where the procuring conduct involves the offender meeting the child or going to a place with the intention of meeting the child; and
	* amending the *Drugs Misuse Act 1986* to:
		+ create a new offence of trafficking in precursors (substances used to manufacture dangerous drugs); and
		+ amend the definition of ‘dangerous drug’ to overcome the evidentiary difficulties in proving an analogue has a substantially similar pharmacological effect to a scheduled dangerous drug (where the substance is new and has not been subjected to study).
3. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Criminal Law (Child Exploitation and Dangerous Drugs) Amendment Bill 2012 into the Legislative Assembly.
4. *Attachments:*
* [Criminal Law (Child Exploitation and Dangerous Drugs) Amendment Bill 2012](Attachments/Bill.pdf)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.pdf)