1. The youth justice system in Queensland currently applies to young people aged between 10 and 16 years of age, with 17-year-olds treated as adults in the criminal justice system. Inclusion of 17-year-olds in the adult criminal justice system is inconsistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the law in all other Australian states and territories. It is also inconsistent with a substantial body of Queensland and Commonwealth law, which defines adulthood at 18 years.
2. The benefits of including 17-year-olds in the youth justice system are nationally and internationally recognised. Children and young people’s neurological and cognitive development is immature and incomplete to a degree, warranting a criminal justice system that responds to this group in a developmentally appropriate manner.
3. The Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Bill 2016 would:
* increase the upper age of who is a child for the purposes of the *Youth Justice Act 1992* , from 16 years to 17 years; and
* establish a regulation-making power to provide transitional arrangements for the transfer of 17-year-olds from the adult criminal justice system to the youth justice system.
1. Cabinet approved that the Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year old Persons) Amendment Bill 2016 be introduced into the Legislative Assembly.
2. *Attachments*
* [Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Bill 2016](Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)