

FACT SHEET

Sentencing Amendment (Presumptive Sentencing for Assaults on Frontline Workers) Bill 2024

The Sentencing Amendment (Presumptive Sentencing for Assaults on Frontline Workers) Bill 2024 (the Bill) amends the *Sentencing Act 1997* to introduce a minimum sentencing presumption for assaults and other offences causing serious bodily harm against frontline workers.

The presumption of minimum sentencing provision proposed in the Bill will not apply where the Court is of the opinion that the imposition of such a sentence would be unjust when considering the circumstances of the offence or the offender.

The provision will also not apply to offenders who are under the age of 18 years at the time the crime was committed, or, in certain circumstances, to offenders who have impaired mental functioning that is causally linked to the crime.

The Bill covers certain categories of frontline workers, such as nurses and many healthcare sector workers, emergency service workers, transport workers and retail and hospitality workers, security officers and public officers, who are all considered to be exposed to a greater risk of harm in the course of carrying out their employment duties.

The amendments will apply from the commencement day, which is the day the Bill receives the Royal Assent.