

FACT SHEET

Sentencing Amendment (Assault of Certain Frontline Workers) Bill 2019

The Sentencing Amendment (Assault of Certain Frontline Workers) Bill 2019 (the Bill) amends the *Sentencing Act 1997* (the Act) to provide for mandatory minimum sentences of six months' imprisonment for offences that result in serious bodily harm to certain frontline workers.

Section 16A of the Act already provides for mandatory minimum sentences of imprisonment for offences resulting in serious bodily harm to police officers.

The Bill extends the existing provisions in section 16A to cover the following frontline workers in addition to police officers:

- ambulance officers
- child safety officers
- correctional services officers
- nurses and midwives
- medical orderlies and hospital attendants

Mandatory minimum sentences of imprisonment under section 16A will only apply where an offence has resulted in serious bodily harm to a frontline worker.

If exceptional circumstances exist, courts will not be required to impose the six month mandatory minimum sentence of imprisonment.