Queensland Community Safety Bill 2024

Submission No: 1

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Attachments: See attachment

Submitter Comments:

SUBMISSION FROM ADJUNCT ASSOC PROF PHILIP HEYWOOD CONCERNING PROVISIONS OF QUEENSLAND COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL, 2024 FOR JUVENILE DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL OR CONVICTION

I wish to register my opposition to the proposals of this Bill to legalize detention of alleged juvenile offenders held in police custody prior to either trial or conviction before a magistrate.

I regard this as a retrograde and reactionary step which offends against civil liberties; discriminates against young people; and panders to moral panics which are not justified by actual statistics of changing levels of youth crime.

Instead, accused offenders should be required to appear before Magistrates at accelerated hearings. For those found to have been involved in illegal activities, appropriate remedial activities should be provided, including community service and participation in Police and Citizen Youth Club activities for specified periods.

Pre-judging and criminalizing young people in the ways encouraged in this proposed legislation would be both retrograde ad counterproductive.