



Blue Card response

1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit a response to the Draft Bill.
2. Employment is always an important key to success and can be used to gauge the level of a community's health and welfare.
3. Employment offers significant opportunities for a healthy lifestyle and positive family life opportunities in which to raise a family.
4. Indicators which show that a community has immense dis-function and a high percentage of incarceration in the community.
5. Release from incarceration with employment opportunities offers offenders hope and a future. This shows itself in the opportunities for people to rebuild their lives.
6. Shared risk management by way of employment is important to a community for a community.

Operation of an alternative to issuing a Blue Card

1. The local Community Justice Group needs to be involved in any decision. However at times this Group acting, if alone, cannot be aware of the extent of issues to be considered.
2. Sometimes a local Community Justice Group can be fragile and will not respond to huge pressures, if it alone is responsible.
3. I suggest that it needs decision making by a wide community group of interest. This could include Queensland Police Service; Queensland Health, especially Mental Health and Allied Health and the local Community Council. With increasing opportunities for sharing of information, this will help to break down any silos which hold information valuable to decision-making. It could also help to ensure there is not any 'family' decision-making that might favour a particular person.
4. While this has been talked about in relation to discreet communities, I think it needs to also apply to 'communities of common interest'. For example: a person in Doomadgee comes to live in Mount Isa. They have a local card to work in their community. I see no reason why they cannot work here if local approval processes could not be put in place to allow for a decision making process to be implemented which involved their own home community as well as their community of interest, e.g., Mount Isa.
5. Revoking a card: notice could be given from the local QPS or State wide QPS that an issue has arisen. A card would be suspended seeking further clarification of what is involved. The local group who issued the Card could then be contacted to re-examine the card that had been given and asking clarification about the continued use of the card.
6. In some cases a card may be refused but the person asked to reapply in year. In some cases a person might be given areas to work on for the issuing of a card – undertaking courses, a set length of time with no further convictions, ...
7. The local operation needs to have a designated person for the community within the Blue Card system they correspond with and who will guide them and approve of their committee structure to handle this.
8. It might be good to roll this out with a couple of communities to understand the structure and how it works and what will be issues with this. Other initiatives have benefited from trial sites for programmes.

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