

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL 2023

Submission No: 1
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I am very concerned about the status of youth detention centres in Queensland. It is quite clear that police are arresting youth but there are no places for them in youth detention. Recently a magistrate in Townsville released a number of youths as they were being held in police custody spending weeks with adults because there is no space in youth remand centres. Making breach of bail an offence will only make this issue worse. I believe many young offenders need to be removed from the place where their criminal behaviour is supported or encouraged, such as from their peers and sometimes, sadly, family. I do believe that putting young people in prison just makes them better criminals, being socialised with their peers from various criminal backgrounds in the one facility. Instead, alternatives should be explored such as home detention in supported accommodation in small share houses with oversight by a guardian or police, the inclusion of PCYC interventions in their daily activities, professional counselling or psychological assessments by more than one person with the view to understand the individual circumstances of that person. In short, tough on crime has not worked and it's the easy and popular way to solve a problem - "We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them" is also a popular phrase often ignored by knee-jerk reactions. Tough on crime is costly to both the government's coffers and psychosocial aspects of the youth who commit crimes. Understanding the young person's background, mental health, DFV and past abuse, inferiority complexes, and trauma are just some of the things that young people need help with. They say it takes a community to raise a child. This must not stop at youth.