

## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL 2023

**Submission No:** 85  
**Submitted by:** Kevin Keeffe  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Submission to Economics and Governance Committee regarding the Strengthening Community Safety Bill (the Bill) 2023. I write briefly to express my views on the Bill. I note that given the truncated period for submissions, my submission is outside the time period, but may still be considered as stated on the Committee website. I support in general terms, the detailed submissions of the Justice Reform Initiative, the Qld Council of Social Services, and the Qld Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service. In particular: \* there is no practical requirement to remove human rights protection under the Human Rights Act 2019. Measures for community safety can be rapidly introduced without such over-reach as demonstrated in the Qld Govt response to the Covid Pandemic. \* The strategy of introducing harsher penalties leading to increased youth detention will not ensure community safety, but will undoubtedly lead to greater recidivism, youth alienation and an increase in generational harm for First Nations Queenslanders. \* There is an urgent need to resource and empower community based organisations to address the social and economic drivers of crime and over engagement with the criminal justice system. \* The rates of incarceration of children, especially First Nations children, in overcrowded youth detention centres and adult watch houses needs to be urgently addressed. The current Bill if enacted will exacerbate this situation. \* The Bill is out of step, politically and morally, with the positive steps that the Queensland Government is taking in support of Truth, Voice and Treaty with Indigenous First Nations peoples in Queensland. \* It is over thirty years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody report. The recommendations of that report remain unimplemented in whole or in part in Queensland, but would help to address the underlying issues being considered by the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to express my views on the Bill.