

Expanding Adult Time, Adult Crime and Taking a Strong Stance on Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour Amendment Bill 2026

Submission No: 076

Submission By: [REDACTED]

Publication: Making the submission public and withholding your name

Good Morning,

I have met with many parliamentary officials, Child Safety staff, private and public AODS facilities and Queensland Health departments over the 6+ years I have been dealing with my eldest sons criminal behaviours. All linked to his ongoing addiction and rapidly declining mental health.

Most recently I met with Dr John Reilly to discuss how families of patients with comorbidities of mental illness and substance use disorder could better advocate for and obtain quality rehab services in the public health sector. I was not left feeling very optimistic that this was a priority for Queensland Health.

After reading your bill I am further disenheartened.

You are not working towards a sustainable solution.

The problem is the Human Rights Legislation. Fix that first!

Having worked in emergency services and mental health case management for over a decade I have seen first hand how desperately our communities need more resources, education, and far better laws for managing this growing problem.

We are losing an entire generation of children to drugs. Children who will commit atrocities to feed their habit because INVOLUNTARY DRUG REHAB for kids under 18 no longer exists. This is unacceptable.

The systems in place are not by any stretch of the imagination best practice. A child in the grips of addiction can not make appropriate decisions regarding their life. The same is true for a child that is mentally ill. We as a community, as concerned parents, teachers, child safety officers and emergency services workers should have the right to place a child under 18 years of age on an involuntary treatment authority for a minimum of 8 weeks.

Not a 4 hour emergency order where they are discharged as soon as they fake being stable for 2 minutes at the local ED.

There are not even any EASY referral pathways in place to refer your childs case to the mental health tribunal. The current EEA process is causing bed blocking and simply wasting the time of police, ambulance and even fire service personnel at times. The clinicians who attend from ACT are not outcome focused, they are not willing to allow social admissions, and to me it appears that each discharge of a young person severely in need with pleading family members begging for help only serves to reduce hospital costs. There is no compassion or ability to refer these extremely troubled patients elsewhere for urgent intake because no community facilities exist for that service for this increasingly growing cohort of the community.

Putting more kids in jail is not the answer.

Mandatory rehab for troubled teens IS THE ANSWER.

I have spent 5 years now watching the decline of my eldest sons health and capacity due to his comorbidity of disease. He started on weed which induced schizophrenia and he ended up homeless on meth because he ran away from every safe home he was offered because his family and youth workers would not abide drug use.

We have exhausted every single AODS and Mental Health program that we could find. Both public and private. There is even less available in the private sector because they will not employ the required security to ensure patients and staff remain safe.

My son has finally been admitted to AMHU at the Toowoomba Hospital after 150+ EEAs but I hold no hope for his future. I currently visit him every other day and what remains of the son I love is very difficult to see beneath the ravaged mind, body and soul he now possesses. He has been raped, he has been beaten, he has been homeless for years. He is not yet twenty years old.

This didn't need to be his life but because of our failing as a society to prioritise our children this is what has occurred.

I would be remiss if I did not reach out to you and ask for your support in revising your bill to also include adequate involuntary mental illness treatments as part of your revision.

Many children committing crimes are in the grips of addiction and due to lifestyle factors and the comorbidity of substance use disorders and other mental illnesses the children and their families are not able to access therapeutic services that provide continuity of care to address these issues.

Jail only worsens a young person's chances of recovery from addiction.

Many young lives could be saved and be given a chance to reengage with education and their families if we build the facilities needed to adequately care for and treat this horrible disease that is destroying hundreds of thousands of families every day. Because I truly believe that recovery is possible where early intervention is achieved. We need to provision involuntary mental health and rehab centres for children.


Our laws as they stand are not protecting our young people from long term harm. We allow them to suffer from the consequences of adult choices that they should never be allowed to make. Parents should not have to be left with no option other than handing their beloved sons and daughters over to child protection services and the trauma of living in a youth residential facility. Youth Resi staff are not qualified to deal with the problematic behaviours associated with drug misuse and mental illness.

We are becoming a woke and weak nation that passes the buck continuously and if we do not prioritise the health and wellbeing of our children now, we never will.

Please ensure this is reflected in your amendments. We should never respect the rights of children to harm themselves, harm their futures and harm the community because of drug addiction. But we do not need to jail these children either.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Regards,

 and all of Queensland's concerned parents.