

Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024

Submission No: 27
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

As a Townsville resident, I continue to be left speechless by the regular events occurring in my hometown. We had always planned to return to Townsville as our family grew and while we adore being close to family, we often question if this was the safest choice. We often say that we are so fortunate we have not been directly impacted by crime and by this we mean that our vehicle has not been stolen, driven dangerously and then inevitably set on fire, left littered with drug paraphernalia or driven into a creek. North Queenslanders are resilient by nature and reputation, but I think we need to also bring to the forefront the broader impacts crime is having on our town and our way of life. We all know multiple people directly impacted by crime but at this point, aren't we all victims? We've all had a near miss. We don't live the same way we used to. We don't leave the house without thinking twice. We don't go to sleep at night without thinking three times. And we know for sure we don't walk the streets, or our local park footpaths, as a family without a heightened sense awareness and let's face it, anxiety. None of us feel safe. I also fear for our sense of community and the invisible lines of division being drawn through our community. We all need to feel safer. And that includes these young offenders making reckless and life-changing choices. As a mother I can't help but want these young children (and they are children) to be supported and feel wanted, loved and gain hope that they can again be contributing members of our community. The choices they are making don't need to define their lives or, their community. They can make better choices. I'm not sure detention as a last resort and adult time, adult crime are the right choices, but I also know that as a mother, I need to be selfish for my own child whose safety I fear for when we drive to school, walk to the park and go to sleep at night. None of this can continue to go on in this way. It's not sustainable for the entire community's health and wellbeing. We need to restore our safety, sense of pride, genuine care and empathy for one another. It's who we are. We are North Queenslanders.