

Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024

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Submitter Comments:

I would like to know where the young offenders will be detained. Currently there are 32 beds WMYDC163 beds BYDC106 beds CYDCJust shy of 300 available beds currently. When Woodford opens it will house approximately 80 offenders, wacol remand centre is property of QPS and serve as a temporary bandaid until Woodford is up and running. With the increase of young offenders and no word on any further developments in North qld for more centres where will they be put? Currently young offenders are moved many kms throughout the state so they can be housed in SEQ watch house at Caboolture, this is due to end but the request to extend has been put in and I'm sure will be accepted. The standards of the centres are vastly different, SEQ has top end CCTV and security systems along with other amenities that inherently reduce the risk of harm to staff by young offenders. North QLD CYDC centre is yet to be retrofitted and lacks CCTV in all young offender cells. Couple this with an ongoing shortage of staff and a desperation to employ whomever they can leaves the centre and the young offenders at a very high risk, maybe unacceptable level of abuse. Theoretically the centres should all run the same however the demographics are dramatically different therefore requirements should be adjusted at each centre depending on the demographic. From experience and talking with young people, they lack support when either introduced to yj system or upon release from detention. This includes but is not limited to: Few available addiction services Little to no availability to safe sex clinics or family planning No access to mental health treatments or acute mental health interventions Very few addiction programs or knowledge based rehabilitation Little access to programs or schooling unless enrolled prior to release and usually with third party NGO There are currently no government run facilities to assist in any redirections or learning or programs for young people in Townsville. The job role of youth working in detention should be changed to suit the fact it is a detention setting where young people are housed/detained due to serious criminal offences. Therefore rewording to young offenders or youth offenders and detainees should be looked at. Sentencing is an issue, I would like to see the ability of being detained at governments pleasure for heinous crimes such as the UK and the USA where they will sentence in particular ways life imprisonment for crimes such as murder. The USA for example recognise the human rights act but not the child human rights act to support a life sentence. Restorative practice should no longer be relied upon to reduce offending behaviour as it is based on a UK system with no adjustments the individual and very different demographics both culturally and racially in Australia. If it needs to be utilised due to the youth justice act it should be amended and made for the Australian system not picked from a book in the UK, it has proven time and time again it does not and cannot work until amended to fit the countries it's used in.