

Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024

Submission No: 84
Submitted by: Green Fox Training Studio
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:



Re: Submission to the Youth Justice Reform Inquiry

3 December 2024

Introduction

Green Fox Training Studio is honoured to contribute to the Youth Justice Reform Inquiry. Our mission is to empower individuals facing disadvantage, particularly those involved in the criminal justice system, by providing comprehensive training in graphic and digital design. Through education and skill development, we can break the cycle of disadvantage and create a more just and equitable society.

Background

Green Fox Training Studio is Australia's first not-for-profit creative training facility established within a high-security prison. Our programs have expanded to include incarcerated youth, women, and other marginalised groups. We provide real-world work experience and training in industry-leading programs like Adobe Creative Cloud, aiming to improve our participants' employability and mental health outcomes.

Key Issues and Recommendations

Prevention and Early Intervention

Issue: *The current youth justice system often fails to address the root causes of youth offending, such as trauma, social disadvantage, and lack of opportunities.*

Recommendation: Invest in community-based and culturally relevant early intervention and support programs. Programs like Green Fox Training Studio's JumpStart for Youth, which offers graphic design education and personal development training, can help prevent youth from entering the justice system.

Alternatives to Detention

Issue: *Detention often exacerbates the problems faced by young offenders, leading to higher rates of recidivism.*

Recommendation: Promote alternatives to detention that focus on rehabilitation and skill development. Green Fox Training Studio's programs provide a supportive environment where participants can learn new skills, develop confidence, and improve their chances of success upon release.

Support for Victims of Crime

Issue: *Victims of crime often do not receive adequate support and resources.*

Recommendation: Implement comprehensive support systems for crime victims, including counselling, legal assistance, and community support programs. Green Fox Training Studio's holistic approach, which includes wraparound support and mentoring, can serve as a model for providing comprehensive care.

Culturally Safe and Trauma-Informed Practices

Issue: *Many young offenders, particularly First Nations youth, face unique challenges related to intergenerational trauma and institutional racism.*

Recommendation: Adopt trauma-informed and culturally safe practices in all youth justice programs. Green Fox Training Studio's programs are designed to be inclusive and supportive, recognising our participants' diverse backgrounds and experiences.





ReKindle and Phoenix Programs

Green Fox Training Studio is proud to support the ReKindle program, which aims to provide practical skills training, employment opportunities, and social support resources to young people transitioning back into the community after detention. The program is a collaborative effort between government-based youth justice and education partners and community-based and Indigenous-led organisations. It is designed to reduce youth offending and reoffending rates by providing practical skills training, employment opportunities, and access to social support resources.

The Phoenix program focuses on providing comprehensive support to young people who have experienced trauma and disadvantage. It includes modules on personal development, mental health, and employability skills, aiming to empower participants to achieve personal and professional success.

Statistics and Feedback

Our JumpStart for Youth program targets young people who have been incarcerated and face significant challenges in rebuilding their lives and reintegrating into society. We are proud to say that our program has achieved its intended outcomes, as evidenced by the positive feedback from our participants and stakeholders. Here are some key statistics and feedback:

- Program Impact: Our competency-based program provides a structured framework for young people to expand their digital literacy knowledge, which can assist with future education or employment opportunities.
- Recognition and Support: We have received recognition and support from various stakeholders, including the Department of Education and Training, for helping individuals at particular risk of social exclusion, marginalisation, reoffending, homelessness, and unemployment.

Testimonials

Green Fox Training Studio has received numerous testimonials from participants and stakeholders, highlighting the positive impact of our programs:

"I started training with Green Fox Studio with no previous knowledge of computers. I want to thank the Green Fox management team for having the drive to initiate this one-of-a-kind program, as it has given me skills that I never would have acquired otherwise and has set me up with skills that will be invaluable upon reintegration into the community." - Participant.

Conclusion

Green Fox Training Studio is committed to positively impacting the lives of young people involved in the criminal justice system. By providing education, skill development, and comprehensive support, we can help break the cycle of disadvantage and create a brighter future for all. We urge the Youth Justice Reform Inquiry to consider our recommendations and support initiatives that promote rehabilitation, prevention, and community-based solutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this critical inquiry.

Amanda Shepherd
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