

Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024

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Subject: Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee Submission

Date: Tuesday 2nd December 2024

Dear Parliamentary Committee,

HOME was approached some months back by senior representatives from the 'Department of Youth Justice' and 'Premier & Cabinet' to talk about co-designing a fit for purpose 'High-Risk Diversionary Youth Rehabilitation' program to reduce recidivism and the impact it was having on the wider community.

HOME set about co-designing a long-term program to transition high-risk Youth Offenders from the community into a very remote region area and begin proper rehabilitation activities to break the ongoing cycle of peer trained and facilitated crime in the community.

Our program is long-term in its nature, flexible in its components and educational curriculum, and if delivered over a long-term time frame, it will help counter or dramatically reduce Recidivist Crime in any area.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are just as likely or in some communities more likely to be victims of crime, and they and the wider community NEED! this to stop NOW!

Short-term 'band aid' solutions proposed by both Major Political Parties are just throwing good money after Bad! Quite Literally!

These Recidivist 10–17-year-olds need a circuit breaker approach over a minimum of two years in duration and stop them becoming train the trainers in crime for other at-risk Youth!

Our program is designed at early prevention or early contact with criminal justice system stages, their family circumstances mapped with our partner organisations and running Diversionary Youth programs for all youth in our community to try and prevent them presenting before the courts in the future.



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There is a multitude of reasons why at-risk Youth continue down the road towards high-risk Recidivist Crime, and we need to identify the root causes and address that first!

The root causes are many and extraordinarily complex and every high-risk Youth Offender will have a different story, different approach needed and different intervention requirements!

This is why a 'one size fits all' approach by government will not resolve this issue, nor will incarceration and throw away the key, because we will end up with more Youth Detention centres than social housing in our communities!

Flexible, intelligence led multiple component programs with continued support during and after release from the program are the way forward, but this will be dependent on government and potential employers having the stomach to put their money where their mouth is and decide to really fix this problem for the community!

The emphasis is on government getting real about this, and the courts to refer high-risk offenders for proper rehabilitation and then later, further education, industry and/or potential employers helping to provide training and employment retention if the rehabilitation process has been deemed to be successful by an assessment panel of the co-design advisory group.

HOME is happy to talk with any organisations or individuals about our program and accept critique or input for our co-designed program, because we are painfully aware that the complexity of this issue is important to all.

We know that the many in the community has been affected by this in some way and a lot of the wider community are emotionally invested in really fixing this growing crime issue in Queensland.

Irene Rose Leard – Director HOME

Alfred Smallwood SNR – Director HOME