

Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024

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SUBMISSION: Inquiry into Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024

'ADULT CRIME: ADULT TIME'

Treating youths as adults can hinder their potential for rehabilitation and increase the likelihood of future criminal behaviour. Incarceration can:

- expose youths to criminal behaviour and negative influences, leading to higher chances of reoffending once released
- interrupt schooling, hindering their academic progress and limit future opportunities
- exacerbate existing mental health problems or create new ones, making it harder to reintegrate into society
- leave youths with a criminal record leading to social stigma, limiting job access, education and community support
- lack the necessary rehabilitative services that can help address the root causes of delinquency.

These factors highlight the need for alternative approaches that focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment such as:

- restorative justice programs where accountability and understanding is promoted
- diversion programs that address underlying issues without formal charges
- mentorship programs using positive role models
- community service to foster responsibility and connection
- family-based interventions
- skill development programs
- education-focused initiatives
- behavioural health services
- home detention or electronic monitoring.

These alternatives aim to reduce recidivism, promote rehabilitation and help youths reintegrate into society successfully.

Would we rather have treatment that increases the likelihood of future criminal behaviour or treatment that promotes rehabilitation?

I would also like to strongly object to the strictly limited time for members of the public to make submissions to this Inquiry.

M Rushby