

## Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 184  
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Committee Secretary  
Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

### **Inquiry into the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024**

I welcome the opportunity to make this submission, to voice my opposition to the Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024. Both sides of politics used the 'rise in youth crime' to win votes and yet it is well documented that numbers of youth offenders have in fact fallen.

Ask any psychologist, social worker, mental health practitioner, or indeed, any person with common sense, whether locking up 10 year old children is going to lead to positive outcomes for these individuals and their society, and the answer is no. Criminalisation at an early age often leads to institutionalization and recidivism, setting young people on a negative path, with no hope for the future, while also draining the public purse. This approach is likely to create greater issues of crime in the decades to come.

This bill will disproportionately affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, who make up 3% of the general population but over 30% of the population in the youth justice system. This is simply not okay.

The facts and statistics in my submission will be supported by other submissions from individuals, organisations and peak bodies in this space.

Finally, needing to suspend the human rights act to enact this bill should have been a sign that this government has lost its way. While locking up children is immoral and reprehensible, locking up children for political gain reveals a government who has completely lost their moral compass.

As a citizen who cares about the future of where I live, and the safety of our communities and children, I cannot stand by and watch this piece of legislation go forward without voicing my dissent.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Walker