

Making Queensland Safer (Adult Crime, Adult Time) Amendment Bill 2025

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There is absolutely nothing for victims. It does not get your belongings back. It does not give restorative justice. It gives you nothing for damage to your property. It doesn't give back loved ones. It does not bring you peace or justice in any way.

Today I am here as a victim of crime and to tell you my experience with QPS, the Court system and restorative justice.

It has been a very good learning curve knowing the difference between an adult break in and a child break in and it has been a frustrating and disappointing experience to say the least. I was out of the country at the time of my break in. I received a call from a local police officer asking me what was stolen. How am I supposed to know when I was overseas at the time in which she was aware of. I was made to feel like the criminal because I did not have camera's and was made to feel it was my fault. This officer was rude, unsympathetic and judgemental. Kids don't care about cameras so why should I waste my money on installing them. I was not given a QP number until 5 days later when I had to ask for it. I have been to the Police Station 13 times in regards to my case. It took 16 days to send me an email of the list of things recovered which was only 4 things. I gave all the information to the Detective of who had my things, where they were and their names. Nothing became of it. There was 1 adult and 3 kids involved in my break in & 2 other properties. Since March 3rd I have had 2 phone calls and 3 emails from the Police. I do not know who is in charge of my case. I do not know who was the arresting officer. Do you think that is acceptable? I don't.

I found out on the May 5th there are 17 officers attached to my case. It is like victims don't matter. There is no victims support officer unless yours was a heinous crime. Regardless all victims should be able to talk to a victim's support officer to navigate the broken juvenile court system. If I did not do all the detective work, I would not know a thing. I managed to get all their names. I asked numerous times for court dates in which I was ignored. After sending an email to the Premiers office about my concerns it was not until then I received a call from a Police Officer on a Sunday who told me he would personally get the detective to call me. He did not call but sent me an email with the court dates. That took 7 days.

First Court case March 3rd I had a person go on my behalf as I was overseas. He got the run around but managed to be in the court room. 1 of the kids got court appointed school at Silver Lining but he decided he did not like that school so he did not go. Excuse me but it is not court appointed? Who checks up on the court orders?

Apparently if he decides he does not want to go then it is up to the Police to re arrest him. Do you honestly believe Police have the time to do this? Should this not be Youth Justice job?

Second court date was the April 29th. I sat in the waiting area of the children's court waiting for the clerk of the courts. She did not show. After waiting for which seems like forever, I asked a lady where the clerk of the court was and she asked me what it was about. She went in and spoke to a Prosecutor who came out and spoke to me. I told him I was the Victim and under the new LNP laws I was allowed to attend the hearing. He told me it had been adjourned to another date and no reason was given. I told him I had a victim statement in which he partially read and said I could not give this to the judge because and walked off. I was so taken back by his condescending manner that I forgot the new court date. I waited for him to come back out and asked him the court date again and what did he mean by that he would not give my statement to the judge and still no answer. He told me to go and talk to the Victims Engagement Officer. I told him there was no Victims support Officer in Cairns. He said there was and who told me there wasn't and I said the front counter of the Police Station and he said they don't know anything. On my way out I saw another prosecutor and asked him where the Victims Engagement Officer [REDACTED] was and he said next door at the Police Station and he was heading that way and he would tell her I was coming. He was so helpful. I spoke with a lovely lady who unfortunately could not help me because mine was not a heinous crime. She told me the case was adjourned because the kid most probably had no parent or guardian present. She did have a look at my victim's statement and told me I could not present it because there were protocols in place on how it had to be written. I am the only one that knows how I feel as a victim but you have protocols on how my statement should be written. Are you serious?

Third court date May 1st. Sitting in the waiting area of Children's Court still no clerk of the court. I had to ask a lady again I was here for case and needed to talk to the prosecutor. I waited for about 3 hrs for a prosecutor to come out. I explained why I was here and gave her my QP Number. She said she knew nothing about it and they had lost my file with my victims' statement. She said she would try and find the Victim Engagement Officer. I waited and no one showed.

Fourth court date May 2nd

Sitting in the waiting area no clerk of the court again. I spotted a lady walking around with a laptop and approached her. She was a Prosecutor hallelujah. She took me into a room to inform me that the case had been adjourned. She checked my QP number and informed there was only 2 kids attached to my crime. I told her she was incorrect. Nope she said there is only 2. Off to the Police station we go again and asked for the Arresting Officer only to be asked which one there, is actually 17 of them. A Police Officer from Property Crime spoke with me and said there are definitely 4 offenders in my case. He

gave me the new court dates. The Victim Engagement Officer came out to see me as I was so confused as to how many offenders are involved in my case. She assured me that there were 4. I now have new court dates and asked her if I go to the Prosecutor is she going to say sorry but these cases are not on your QP Number. She told me no. Let's see. Unfortunately, I can't tell you, my outcomes. Will they be adjourned again? Who knows.

Do you think its ok to email government elected minsters only to be ignored? This is unacceptable from a minister and reflects poorly on the Crisafulli government. So many people I have spoken to in Cairns are having the same issue in regards to a lack of response.

It is your responsibility as the elected government to respond to people's concerns in a timely fashion. We had the same problem with the previous government, and it seems to us nothing has changed.

We the people voted because we wanted a real change. I can appreciate change takes time but what we have seen so far is the same BS and the same stakeholders telling you what they think you want to hear. The only thing missing in all of this is common sense. You put the time into the eldest and the younger siblings will follow.

I don't think you are really interested in talking to people like us that don't have university degrees because really what would we know? We know what is best for our community and how to fix the youth crime problem, but you're not listening.

I believe your newly released statistics are incorrect. Crime has increased in Cairns. If we compare stolen cars in Cairns in March 25 is 254 as opposed to March 24 of 219.

We believe there are good solutions and this is what we are proposing for our community.

We are proposing the Mungalli Way Rural Educational Learning Centre based on the Missouri Model with a 12-month min program. The approach uses a variety of group treatment techniques to help youth develop new behaviours, skills, and social competencies. It incorporates trauma-informed principles, recognizing that trauma can play a significant role in the behaviour of juvenile offenders. The approach helps youth develop skills and knowledge that enable them to succeed in school, find employment, and contribute positively to their communities. We also need in this approach drug rehabilitation and mental health assessments.

The Missouri Model provides extensive support and supervision for youth transitioning back into the community, including aftercare planning, monitoring, and mentoring.

A significant number of youths that have been through the Missouri Approach did not return to the juvenile system or enter adult prisons.

This program is being rolled out through the USA and Europe. They have 7% recidivism we have over 95%.

Detention centre still has a place in society for kids who do heinous crimes. They need specialised rehabilitation to see if they can change and be part of society.

In WA Women's Jail they run a drug program that has a 98% success rate. Why don't we run this program when drugs is such a huge problem in our society.

We want an "In Home Family Support Program", as most of these kids come from single parent families. We want to run the program Mon to Fri with weekends as family time. We want to go in and help kids get ready for school. Teach parents to make budget friendly meals. Teach them how to navigate the system with doctor, dentist, psychologists whatever is needed. Single parents to get 2 free days a week daycare. All parents need me time and that lessens the stress factor. Happy family happy kids.

We are asking for special classes attached to schools to get kids reengaged back in to school.

We are asking for one-on-one mentors for bullies in schools.

My question to the panel is – You propose change. How can you make change if you don't understand crime. Have any of you ever sat down with these kids and listened to their stories. If you really want to make change you would.

We can't seem to get through to you. The public are demanding change. The government has wasted \$19.5 million on 2 providers in Cairns for early intervention. We could have employed over 200 support workers for an "In Home Family Support Program". We know this is the root of the problem in Cairns. Domestic Violence, bullying, neglected children and children not going to school. It all starts at home.

Kids placed on Job seeker are constantly being cut off and we know most are unemployable and because of this, it is also leading to youth crime. We must keep in mind a lot of these kids sleep wherever because home is not safe. It starts with stealing

food and graduates to house break ins and car theft because they hook up with the wrong crowd. We also must remember these other kids become their new family.

Behind every child is an adult feeding them drugs and profiting from their crimes. The kids get into debt because of drugs then they are left with no choice but to steal to cover the debt or end up in a body bag. Some of these kids have been under child safety most of their lives and kicked to the curb.

Child Safety need to take responsibility for their part they played in is when they removed these kids from their parents and split up siblings and placed them in Resi Houses that kick them out between 9am and 4pm with no food or a safe place to go. They are not made to go to school, they can come and go as they please because they hate being there and only want to be with their siblings. The inexperienced youth works cannot cope and end up leaving in droves. The only people that benefit from these homes are the organisations that run them. We just make them filthy rich. I have been calling for an Open Public Enquiry into Child Safety Department for over 3 years and it just seems to me the government protects them.

We need a better system than Resi not Care Houses. Here is an idea why don't we increase the Foster Care payment. These kids need a loving home with a sense of belonging.

Let's talk about the new LNP laws. Adult sentencing should also reflect the new Adult Crime Adult Time laws for children. We can't sentence a kid to 14 years if we are not doing the same for an adult.

We need to build long term relationships where possible whilst they are in detention and then when they are out—because at the moment they are meeting a whole bunch of people while they are in detention. When released back in the community those relationships that they have built are gone. They have to go back to the community to build new relationships with someone else and it gets more difficult every time, to the point when you get a 17-year-old who goes, 'I don't want to talk to you.' You have no hope of trying to build a positive relationship at that point.

I am quite proud of what I have done in regards to youth crime without any government money as to me it has always been about the kids not about the money. We are starting

a Youth Hub the first in Cairns for kids doing crime. We want to help the 79 core repeat offenders as everyone else it seems including the government just want to early intervention. No one can deny that our community has been affected by youth crime and I have personally been a victim twice. There is no single solution that will address this problem and keep our community safe and for that reason I decided these kids need a Youth Hub a safe place for them.

I will not make excuses for offenders but the fact is that many of them have been let down.

There is a group of offenders who become involved in crime because of their situation. We need better services like mental health assessment, drug rehabilitation, dental care, hearing tests and medical checks for these kids. This will be our priority at our hub.

From speaking with offenders, I know there is a group who genuinely want to do better and, instead of ignoring the chance to make our community safer (and help these young people), I took action in setting up a Youth Hub for these kids even though some people said Cairns doesn't need one.

Tradespeople have already expressed an interest in helping us and they will be passing on their skills and work ethic to the young people we will work with. We will teach them to cook, how to set a budget and other skills that you and I take for granted. By teaching these young people basic skills and using the services of Employment Agencies, we aim to get them into the workforce. Education is vital. We have some kids that cannot read or write so we will focus on their education and hopefully get them reengaged back into school. We will get donated cars in which the kids will fix up and give back to the community so they have an understanding of how their actions affected people's lives. We have so many other programs put in place.

Some other programs we will be running will be

A Domestic Violence Education Program for young boys & girls

A Program for young mothers

A Program for young girls teaching them their self-worth.

We will have educational programs.

We have Music, Art & Sewing set up.

We will be collaborating with a driving school.

We have kids interested in joining the Navy Cadet Program.

Basket Ball, Table Tennis. Pizza and Movie Nights. On weekends we will engage them

Camping, Fishing & Reef Trips.

We will set up a reward system.

We have kids that want to sit down and talk to relevant Ministers and tell you, their stories. They might be the one's that can tell you how to fix youth crime.

Is the new Crisafulli Government really going to be any different from any previous Government?

Perri Conti

Changing Young Lives

