

From: [Bruce Taylor](#)
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Inquiry on strategies to prevent and reduce criminal activity in Queensland
Date: Thursday, 12 June 2014 4:17:05 PM

Bruce Taylor

12/06/2014

The Research Director
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry on strategies to prevent and reduce criminal activity in Queensland. My experience is generally of my local area.

The trends and type of criminal activity in my local area in Queensland

There will always be a core of citizens whose leaning is toward illegal activities such as petty crime and break and enter. These activities in Theodore are irregular and cease as the perpetrators are apprehended and or are moved away.

Vandalism and hoon driving also come into this category though are more persistent and Police require the assistance of the public to help reduce these activities. The main cause for concern is the pervasive nature of the drug scene and the reluctance of most people to report what are obvious drug related activities. Here in Theodore there have been successive family gangs who have been able to thrive until eventually tracked down but there is always someone else to continue to distribute. At present there is one family (that is under the eye of Police) that continue to supply and there are a number of willing uses. It would seem that this type of crime is becoming part of everyday life for some people.

The social and economic contributors to crime

This is outside my experience however I feel sure that the lack of respect for Police and the rather soft approach from the courts is a contributing factor. I would also suspect that the prevalence of so called "action movies" with all the crime and killing depicted is effecting the attitude of many.

How criminal activity has impacted you, or your community, directly or indirectly, including the social and economic impacts to families, businesses or the community at large

Because we have taken it upon ourselves to assist Police with the prosecution of hoon drivers, we became the target of these people with stand over tactics, abuse, vandalism of our fences and egging of our house. We invested some \$10,000 in security CCTV and have made it obvious that we won't be intimidated. The harassment has ceased though we can never relax.

The effectiveness (including the cost effectiveness) of crime prevention strategies

Imprisonment; Seems low on the risk factor for the illegal drug distributors. I suggest that the confiscation of their assets and massive fines should be imposed even if it doesn't educate offenders it might help offset the costs incurred in convicting them. On this point I suggest that convicted criminals should be charged for

their accommodation in the watch house and prison.

Your interactions with the Queensland Police Service

I have the greatest respect for our Police Force. While I have had to press for some help at times, I have always had help, sometimes at the most difficult times and my problems have been resolved. I wish to comment that in my opinion Police should be able to give lawful directions and expect citizens to obey in a compliant manner. Police should not have to risk their own lives because of the aggression of uncontrollable people. People have to be responsible for their own actions, alcohol and drugs are not an excuse to be aggressive and uncontrollable. I submit that when Police are forced to use force, to whatever extent, they must not be vilified for having to protect themselves and others. I suggest that, if there is not already one, there be an act of Parliament that protects Police in such circumstances.

Bruce Taylor