

From: [Mary Graham](#)
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Thursday, 17 July 2014 3:16:41 PM
Attachments: [Submission .pdf](#)

The Research Director,
On behalf of Hopecentre Services I have attached our response to your call for submissions on "Strategies to prevent and reduce crime".
Should you require further information please contact myself, Mary Graham on [REDACTED] or Grant Austin on [REDACTED]

Regards
Mary Graham

Mary Graham



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1. Whether you have observed particular trends and type of criminal activity occurring in your particular region or across the State more generally

- Criminal trends are being repeated. Can only go down the same path unless you are shown a different way. Family trends repeated in the classroom, lack of education playing a big part in the propagating of or the repeating of the trend of criminal activity within our community – Disengagement - Unemployment - Domestic Violence – Sexual abuse - Theft – Drugs
- If children are not learning these patterns of criminal behavior are repeated in the next generation. We now see 2 and 3 generations of unemployment within families with younger members displaying the same behaviours.
- Housing costs and availability bring these families together Low – socio-economic areas develop as a result.
- The trend is that within our education system there are a growing number of children that aren't learning and therefore cant get out of the place that they are in or that their parents are in.
- The parents of these children also aren't particularly educated and consequently criminal activities become a solution for their need to make money. They have time on their hands to indulge in crime and also sexual abuse of their children.

2. What you consider to be the key social and economic contributors to crime;

As mentioned above.

3. 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;

We inquired of Morton Council as to what were the top community needs that they as a Council were trying to address. – Unemployment - Family breakdown, - children and youth disengagement - sexual abuse - setting children up for a future of criminal activities.

4. The effectiveness (including the cost effectiveness) of crime prevention strategies such as:

a. Imprisonment;

N/A

b. Justice reinvestment;

If the new approach of Justice reinvestment was linked to the "Mimi's House" project the initial successful pilot could be expanded into an area trial.

At present:

Current Project	Area Trial
3 Schools	11 schools
40 Children + waiting list	160 children
1 Mimi's House	4 Mimi's Houses
1x 12 Seater bus	2x 24 Seater buses
1 paid staff member	8 fulltime + 8 part-time staff
Staff Development	Expanded Staff Development

c. Early intervention; and

Schools unable to cope with class sizes teachers employed to teach not parent children, responsibility to meet education standards and requirements and so 'naughty' children simply put out of classroom.

Growing number of these children – as former School Chaplains the founders of the Mimi's House project dealt with a number of them.

Providing an education answer – Mimi's House

d. Alternative dispute resolution.

Established Mimi's House (Grandma's House) 2013

Grades 1-5

3 local schools contributing at this point in time Grade 5 students as they realize this was a 'last chance option for their grade 5's – 10 children per day for 4 days – 40 children - waiting list exists for positions.

Referral Process

Mimi's House is partnering with local schools in the Moreton Bay region. Children are referred to the program by their school's Guidance Officer (on the approval of the school's Principal and the child's parent or carer).

Programs Used

Mimi's House uses endorsed programs such as 'Friends for Life' and 'My Life Rulz'. These two programs are specifically designed to build the child's self-confidence and self-efficacy.

Adult Child Ratio

1 Adult – 4 Children

Transportation

Children who participate in the program will be collected from their home and transported to Mimi's House in the morning and will be returned to their home in the afternoon.

Outcomes

- Respect for themselves and others
- An ability to regulate their emotions
- Teamwork
- Delayed gratification
- Self-control
- Communication skills
- Hygiene and self-care
- Gardening, craft and/or other practical skills

5. Whether you consider other models in national and international jurisdictions could be implemented in Queensland and whether you consider they would be more effective;

As mentioned this is a pilot project through which we are developing our 'best model' and 'best practice'.

Stage 2: Area trial

Stage 3: Model duplication within Queensland

Stage 4: Model duplication to other States

6. Experiences or observations of the Queensland criminal justice system, including experiences from victims of sexual violence and/or domestic violence;

N/A

7. Your interactions with the Queensland Police Service, the courts, prosecuting authorities, legal and support services and compensation processes; and

An emerging relationship – local Police have been made aware of project and drive by.

8. Possible strategies to increase collaboration and co-operation between various participants in the criminal justice system.

Our strategy in contributing to this call for submissions is to present the "Mimi's House" project to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee as one that both prevents and reduces crime in our community.