

## **Submission to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee (LACSC)**

### Importance of Preventative Crime Strategies Targeting Major and Minor Crimes which are embedded in socio-economic and educational disadvantage as a Whole of Government Initiative requiring financial support from the Federal Government through its controversial work for the dole programmes

That LACSC recommends preventative crime strategies for major and minor crimes that are embedded in socio-economic and educational disadvantage should be targeted as a whole of government approach:

- Anticipation of challenges associated with proposed federal changes to the availability of unemployment and Newstart benefits during 2014-15 and urgent negotiation with the current federal government on federal funding to support proposed initiatives by the Queensland Government
- Responsibility of the Queensland Government to assess and to communicate the extent of socio-economic and educational disadvantage by police region and district to anticipate size of the at risk population in developing crime prevention strategies
- Reassessment of the value of on the job training programmes with employer and state government funded training at TAFE colleges and commercial colleges as an alternative to extended post-compulsory schooling to encourage early-school leavers to combine work experience and employment
- Immediate trialling of preventative crime strategies in at risk police districts with high levels of existing and potential crime with emphasis on:
  - More open acknowledgment by the Queensland Government of the links between crime and both socio-economic and educational disadvantage
  - Requesting a moderation of increases in TAFE fees and the financial burdens imposed by commercial training colleges on at risk populations



- Making communities more fully aware of the extent of surveillance by security guards and police officers of shop-lifting, illegal drug use, misuse of mobile phones, protocols investigation of illegal sexual offences etc so that the futility of criminal activity becomes quite obvious
- Allocation of additional funding for crime prevention programmes in at risk police districts with the economic and social benefits of crime reduction as the tangible goals
- That trial intervention programmes in crime prevention be a subject for community discussion in programme launches and performance reviews for proactive crime prevention programmes which can be owned by communities and evaluated by their capacity to reduce the economic and social costs of minor and major crimes
- With federal funding, such programmes should involve limited net cost to the Queensland Government but still extend its duty of care to at risk communities by assisting unemployed people and school to work transitions