



youth affairs network qld

19th January 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ), the peak body for the youth sector in Queensland. Unfortunately we have not been in a position to undertake consultation with our members from across the state and to put in a detailed response to the proposed changes.

YANQ was defunded by the LNP Government mainly because of our advocacy on youth issues. Unfortunately, the Labor government has not reinstated the funding to our organisation so far and this has left the youth sector in Queensland without a proper voice.

During the tokenistic consultation on the changes to the Youth Justice Act by LNP, YANQ mobilised its statewide members to respond to the consultation's survey. In the very limited time provided YANQ managed to ensure the survey, which was designed to elicit a particular response, did not succeed.

We are now more than pleased to see the Labor Government proposing the changes to the Youth Justice Act. We support all the proposed changes but believe the State Government should be going further and making significant changes to the Youth Justice Act which would uphold the principles of restorative justice.

We also would like to see the Labor Government honouring its commitment from over two decades ago to include 17 year old children in the Youth Justice Act and to ensure they are not locked in Queensland adult prisons.

As mentioned above, due to lack of resources we have not been able to consult with the youth sector in a proper manner. Although we support the proposed changes, we are concerned that without proper consultation with the Queensland youth sector, the Labor Government is following in the same path as LNP and ignoring the voices of marginalised young people and the youth workers who represent them.

If you need any further information and/or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0407 655 785 or by emailing director@yanq.org.au

Yours sincerely

Siyavash Doostkhah
Director
Youth Affairs Network of Queensland

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