

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#)
Subject: Submission for the Youth Justice and other Amendments Bill 2015 & 2016
Date: Saturday, 7 May 2016 4:01:06 PM

To the LACSC members

I am a citizen writing to support the bills as stated in my subject line.

To reduce youth incarceration across Queensland, I would like to see the Queensland government:

- close Children's Magistrates court for hearings of youth justice matters under the Children's Court Act 1992
- Ensure all youth have access to legal representation as well as a parent/guardian/elder or court appointed guardian to be present at all hearings
- Increase the age of criminality to 12 years of age
- Disallow children in detention up to age 18 to be transferred to adult jails
- Make available more bail accommodation so youth awaiting trial or sentencing are not in detention.
- Prioritise reinstatement of court referred youth justice conferencing to culturally appropriate diversionary programs for minor crimes like driving without a licence, shoplifting, public nuisance or such like
- The government to fund culturally appropriate legal services including a bigger budget for family violence prevention services and legal aid
- The government to invest in preventing youth crime through diversionary programs rather than punitive measures.

Last but not least, to commit to transparent Justice Targets to reduce youth incarceration to prove the government's policies are working over the long term.

Yours sincerely
Pearl Tabart

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