

Submission to Legal Affairs and Safety Committee regarding "Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021".

11 March 2021

To Legal Affairs and Safety Committee

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RE: Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021.

I do not believe the currently proposed reforms contained in the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 are adequate to address the seriously escalating juvenile crime situation and will unfortunately not prevent further deaths from occurring.

Many of those arrested are recidivist offenders. The 'revolving door' approach to these offenders must change.

Breach of Bail as a Criminal offence needs to be inserted in ANY change to youth justice laws:

Many of these offenders are juveniles committing offences whilst on bail.

Breach of Bail conditions MUST be reinstated as a serious criminal offence.

Regarding Unlawful Use of a Motor Vehicle offences, all offenders in the vehicle should be charged with the same offence as the driver. This will help prevent offender's manipulation of this offence.

The Courts need to be instructed to take a 3 strikes policy.

First indictable offence the court can show leniency in line with the current policy.

Second indictable offence Leniency with conditions – e.g. probation or suspended sentence with requirement to participate in rehabilitation programs. During this stage tracking devices should be mandatory for all age offenders. Any offender that leaves an approved location (based on tracker information) should be immediately apprehended.

Third indictable offence detention/imprisonment for a mandatory period to enable rehabilitation programs time to work to short circuit the criminal conduct.

Townsville needs a dedicated Police Air Wing aircraft to track stolen vehicles, and to coordinate the interception of stolen vehicles. Offenders are currently driving stolen vehicles in an extremely dangerous manner, knowing that Police will not pursue. This includes driving on the wrong side of the road, driving at excessive speeds, driving directly at other road users and dangerously weaving through traffic.

The juvenile crime problem has been worsening over a number of years, despite previous government programs that were supposed to address the problem. The situation literally is at a life and death stage.

I believe the above suggestions must be implemented to stand any chance of addressing this situation.

Peter Nixon

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