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**Sent:** Friday, 12 March 2021 11:36 AM  
**To:** Legal Affairs and Safety Committee  
**Subject:** Luke Jenkins - Submission  
  
**Categories:** Submission

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

12 March 2021

To Legal Affairs and Safety Committee  
[lasc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:lasc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

**RE: Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021.**

**Background:**

I have been a resident of Townsville since 2016.

I am currently a freight coordinator for the Townsville Airport as of 2018.

I previously worked three and a half years as a delivery driver for multiple Domino's Pizza stores in which I engaged with some of the best and worst people in the large community that resides in Townsville.

Over the last couple years - especially the last month - I have grown especially paranoid with the issues that exist in Townsville, more specifically, the youth crime. Although I am aware that this problem is also apparent in many large regional towns and cities, I am certain none of them have a crisis as obvious and dreadful as the current ongoing catastrophe occurring in our streets.

I am personally agitated by the lack of effort the government has shown to act on similar situations past and present. It was only a matter of time before the deaths of innocent civilians came all because the system cannot correctly deal with persistent career criminals. It does not take a rocket scientist to understand when enough is enough.

The current system seeks to strengthen the youth justice bail framework on juveniles who have committed very serious criminal offences such as burglary, break and enter with intent, dangerous driving, unlawful use of motor vehicle, robbery, assault, and other serious offences that carry maximum penalties of jail term. The big problem surrounding this system, and the whole situation in general, seems to be that the government requires statistics - and large amounts in waves apparently - before it even considers acting upon them. By then, it's too late.

This situation has resulted in the deaths of four young offenders last year, a couple and their unborn child in Brisbane this year, and a 22 year old motorcyclist in Townsville just recently. This motorcyclist, Jennifer Board, was a close personal friend of mine for over a decade.

Just in the past week in Townsville there have been 17 Stolen Vehicles and 44 break and enters. Not to mention, 11 of those occurred on Friday night alone.

If that was not already alarming, these juveniles and other offenders have since continued their crime spree and it has now escalated in severity. I have heard they now carry weapons such as

knives, bats, hammers etc. This is honestly a game to them, because they know they will be released or get away with it.

It goes without saying that I take my life in my hands when I go to work, whenever I exit the house, even when I am at home I still pose a threat to these peasants.

There is a very real danger of further deaths and serious injury to innocent civilians in this community, and so long as these offenders carry out these careless acts of lawlessness, the mental and emotional wellbeing of the public will continue to decline.

The current proposed reforms contained in the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 are not good enough for publication, not to mention it just won't do much to reduce the extremity of these crimes.

Our politicians consistently address to the media that this crime is committed by "a core group of 10% of serial recidivist offenders". That is pure nonsense.

Where did this 10% figure come from? No wonder the public struggles to even understand the seriousness of what circulates in our city, because the media cannot submit an accurate presentation regarding the youth crime that is so rampant in recent times.

The government should disclose exact numbers in relation to the crimes. For example, the number of various criminal offences committed by juveniles, the number of arrests, and the number of arrests by recidivist offenders including the number of times they have offended before.

Breach of Bail as a criminal offence needs to be inserted in all changes of youth justice laws.

Most of the juveniles that commit a crime of any sort continue to do so whilst on bail. I do not understand why Breach of Bail has not been reinstated as a serious criminal offence, or why it was withheld originally.

A lot of the time, these juveniles are released by the court and essentially scolded without a recorded conviction, even after their initial arrests.

Offenders committing offences whilst on bail present a big indication to anyone with common sense that they do not belong in society. I really feel disgusted to find out nowadays that the police have no say in the matter. They are powerless to arrest juveniles found breaching their bail conditions (especially when they know who the offenders are), only to release them due to the poor system the government has in place.

Presumption against bail is doing next to nothing, plain and simple. Why?

The presumption ONLY applies to offenders who are charged with a "prescribed indictable offence" and have been convicted of an chargeable offence previously. As I already stated, these offenders may have committed a crime time and time again before they have a conviction on their name.

These career juvenile criminals are not stupid. They do this for fun.

THEY KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG.

Anyone committing a criminal offence becomes qualified to the age of criminal responsibility. Our criminal law clearly indicates they would be/are guilty of an offence, so why are they being released repeatedly for doing so? Bail is a privilege, NOT a right.

I am not a big fan of detention being "a last resort", when it is obvious now - and has been for some time - that these juveniles do not deserve more than a second chance.

If the crime is of minimal risk to the public - like shoplifting for instance - perhaps bail may seem reasonable (for a first-time offender). Once they have committed another crime of similar standing, they should be presented conditions that limit them returning to normalcy straight away. Anything after that should result straight to a sentence.

If the crime is of great risk to the public - such as the crime wave that has increased in ferocity - the jail sentence should be mandatory right from the word 'go'.

The government should provide the police with additional support and methods to help tackle these serious issues. It has a duty of care to its citizens. As of right now, it is most certainly not devoting more than it needs to. The amount of sites, memorials, and funerals I have visited as a result of these crimes over the years brings me emotional turmoil. I am tired of hearing and seeing this government do barely nothing to tackle this crisis.

I strongly advise a proper revision to these amendments, and a change of heart with the politicians who supposedly represent our parliament in Queensland. At least a full acknowledgement by them that we have a big problem with the social justice system and welfare would go further than being ignored with sheer idiocy.

It is time to do something. The public has done their bit, do yours.

Kind regards,

Luke Jenkins

