

## Youth Justice Reform Select Committee inquiry into youth justice reform in Queensland

**Submission No:** 22  
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**Submitter Comments:**

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Dear Committee Members,

I am running as an independent candidate for the seat of Algester at the 2024 Queensland election and my views on the necessary solutions to resolve the youth crime crisis are as follows:

1. Introduce the Katter's Australian Party relocation sentencing policy. It is an excellent, evidence-based solution, so I can see no reason that is in the public interest for the Government and Opposition to continue to oppose its introduction.
2. Allow law abiding Queenslanders a realistic means of defending themselves, through the legalisation of the same types of non-lethal self-defence items that are available to police, i.e. pepper spray, tasers, stun guns and batons. Recent deaths at the hands of young criminals have clearly demonstrated, that the Queensland Police cannot be everywhere to save every life.

The usual advice to run away from an assailant is useless to people who are old, disabled, defending children or are simply not as fast as a young attacker. In addition, the usually stated fear that criminals will use non-lethal weapons in crime does not stand up to scrutiny, as criminals already have access to easily available lethal weapons to use in crime.

Section 271(2) of the Criminal Code Act 1899 (Qld), allows citizens to use force up to lethal force to defend themselves, when they have reasonable grounds to believe that their lives are in danger, when the force is reasonable under the circumstances. Allowing non-lethal options may save the life of an armed young criminal, who encounters a victim who is willing to use one of the heavy or sharp objects that are found in every Queensland household, to defend themselves or their loved ones.

From my discussions with citizens in Algester, I believe that the legalisation of non-lethal self-defence items, would be well supported in the community. I encourage the Committee to recommend the legalisation of non-lethal self-defence items for Queenslanders as a matter of priority.

3. The ban on purchasing knives for under 18s is dangerous, young criminals will undoubtedly start robbing people's houses to steal their kitchen knives, increasing the risk of violent crime. A profitable black market for these implements may also emerge. This ban should be scrapped and the Parliament should start focusing on real solutions to resolve this crisis.

Regards,

Rhys Bosley

Independent Candidate for Algester

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