

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

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To: [Youth Justice Reform Select Committee](#)
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November 22, 2023

Youth Justice Reform Select Committee
Committee Secretary
Parliament House George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000
Phone: 07 3553 6663

Re: Youth Justice Reform in Queensland
Drug Free Australia and affiliates thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this much needed reform. We wish to draw your attention to the following to ensure all aspects of such reform are taken into account.

1. It is important that you become aware of one of the most under-utilised Queensland resources - the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association (PCYC Queensland). It is a not-for-profit organisation which has 54 PCYC's across Queensland, including, six Indigenous PCYC's in remote communities: Napranum, Aurukun, Yarrabah, Doomadgee, Palm Island and Mornington Island.

The Aboriginal liaison officers in community policing are a very positive asset to the PCYC. These highly trained motive officers are perfect mentors to young male juvenile offenders.

2. The D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program has been Proven effective and evidence-based through multiple studies and is Successful and Effective and D.A.R.E also runs an online training program for Police officers worldwide. You can find more about the program - 'TEACHING STUDENTS GOOD DECISION-MAKING SKILLS TO LEAD SAFE AND HEALTHY LIVE' at <https://dare.org/>

The D.A.R.E. program has had significant success in combating the serious issue of drug abuse in the youth cohort, in particular, fentanyl.

As you may already be aware, children all over the country are at risk of serious harm due to the prevalence of fentanyl. According to the Centers for it Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), 67% of the 107,375 people who died of a drug overdose in the US in the 12-month period ending January 2022 were caused by fentanyl. Fentanyl mixed with other drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamine is increasingly prevalent and poses a fatal risk to users.

To quote: 'D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), provides science-

based curriculums to children in communities across the US with the objective of helping children and young adults make healthy and positive choices while avoiding dangerous and consequential actions like drug use. We teach them practical strategies they can use to avoid temptation, resist peer pressure, and address the negative stresses they may face in life'. Proven effective and evidence-based through multiple studies Feb 16, 2023 The UNC Greensboro and Prevention Strategies' three-year, multi-longitudinal study concludes: 'D.A.R.E. Keepin' it REAL Elementary School Curriculum is Evidence-based, Successful and Effective. <https://dare.org/d-a-r-e-keepin-it-real-evidence-based-successful-and-effective/> Parent & Educator Resources' Source: <https://dare.org/resource-guides/#articles>

3. Other programs that maybe of interest to the Committee.

Youth Justice Support <https://youthoffthestreets.com.au/get-support/youth-justice/>

The Youth justice community programs and services

https://www.google.com/search?q=rehabilitation+programs+for+youth+offenders&rlz=1C1GCEA_enAU745AU745&oq=programjuvenile+offending&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUqCggDEAAYgAQYogQyBggAEUYOTIKCAEQABiABBiiBDIKCAIQABiABBiiBDIKCAMQABiABBiiBNI BCTMyMjY0ajBqN6gCALACAA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#ip=1

They should be able to refer juveniles in the justice program to the PCYC.

4. Study finds success in Far North youth program

<https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/97670>

5. Prevention and Intervention Programs for Juvenile Offenders

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/20179984>

6. Early Intervention the Way to Fix Youth Crime

https://www.justicereforminitiative.org.au/early_intervention_the_way_to_fix_youth_crime

7. Additional resources via our affiliate's website may also be of interest. These include:

8. Drug Free Australia: Education (drugfree.org.au)

<<https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdrugfree.org.au%2Findex.php%2Fresources%2Feducation&data=05%7C01%7C%7C883ec8bcb1c417b6cc208dbeae81ee5%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638362054949810966%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=MLubQguKBn335yl>

[MT1suKzdb7AXInnEEzOEueKnzuK4%3D&reserved=0>](#)

9. Dalgarno Institute: Dalgarno Institute Website - Dalgarno Institute Website
<[10. Drug Advisory Council of Australia: Drug Advisory Council Australia | DACA <\[11. The Rotary Action Group for Addiction Prevention: Recent Events in the Field of Addiction Prevention | Rag AP \\(rag-ap.org\\)
<\\[A further consideration \\\(for serious repeat offenders\\\) could be consideration of an ankle bracelet as a deterrent. The young developing brain often has no 'stop button' and without associated family support, extreme offenders may need a clear message about the harms they are causing, and that the community needs protection. Perhaps an ankle bracelet trial needs to be considered, with support and rewards offered for compliance?\\]\\(https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rag-ap.org%2Fen%2Frecent-events-in-the-field-of-addiction-prevention&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc883ec8bcb1c417b6cc208dbeae81ee5%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638362054949810966%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=S52RIEYtFXCUsEXBgzcX%2BtRfg5J1B%2FPa1C52QRLpYg8%3D&reserved=0>></p></div><div data-bbox=\\)\]\(https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdrugadvisorycouncilaustralia.org.au%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc883ec8bcb1c417b6cc208dbeae81ee5%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638362054949810966%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4SvqW8OPe0EEqwe%2B1J%2FQJu LlmpL69mjxGYnw9wjkxI%3D&reserved=0>></p></div><div data-bbox=\)](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dalgarnoinstitute.org.au%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc883ec8bcb1c417b6cc208dbeae81ee5%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638362054949810966%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=WIKydn7MTDKwXZqSuC3rzrvWgZppO8SJS pEn2rVvHmc%3D&reserved=0>></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Again, we thank you for your initiative in taking up this much needed cause on behalf of our youth. We would be pleased to provide further information and/or be represented at any forum or hearing you may be considering.

Regards

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