

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

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**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2023 11:57 AM  
**To:** Youth Justice Reform Select Committee <[youthjustice@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:youthjustice@parliament.qld.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Victim of Youth Crime

Hi

My business has been targeted two times by youths. The first in 2019 when 3 youths smashed through the front door of my jewellery shop and smashed all my lower cabinets stealing as much jewellery as they could. Even though I had the larger priced items in the safe the total retail amount stolen was approx. \$52,000 and then the added cost of replacing and making front door stronger and replacing 5 glass cabinet tops. The inconvenience of shutting the store while cleaning and repairs could be done. And have I seen any compensation yet. Have I had a sorry from those youths. One of them was 13 and was arrested [REDACTED] finally when he was involved in a violent home invasion.

Recently 3 youths snuck out of a youth detention camp stole a car and [REDACTED] and broke into quite a few businesses. They kicked and smashed my front windows. I now have lost my no claim bonus, I have to pay my excess on the insurance policy and they have caused at least \$4000 damage in the matter of 6 minutes. Again slap on the wrist. Let go, no consequences.

These youths are untouchable due to skin colour. Well its time to stop. They know they can't be touched they know nothing will happen to them. This culture has to be stopped now. My comment here makes me racist. No Im not racist but I am sick and tired of one rule for some and another rule for others. We are all Australians no matter skin colour or race and as such everyone should be treated the same. If they can't be controlled then control their parents. Half the time the kids are too scared to go home without something for their parents to sell for drugs. Make the parents suffer consequences. I grew up in far north Qld and this has been going on since I was a child. I am now 57. My daughter lives in Townsville and says there are areas you just don't go, and is afraid to be out at night on her own anywhere. She is petrified that she will be attacked whilst driving the brand new car that she saved so hard to purchase.

Every person in this country should be treated equally. Rather than getting benefits according to your race perhaps make everyone the same and means test everyone. Those that need help, help them, those who are working and doing well don't get any assistance. There are people in this town who both parents are working their kids go to private schools, their kids are driving brand new cars and they get all the indigenous benefits. Why they don't need it.

I have suggested to politicians on many occasions the aboriginal communities etc need to be run like a Kibbutz. Everyone in the community has a job and must do it for the good of the

community. If someone is slacking it is the community they have to face not the outside world. This way there is pride and worth given to the people. A committee of people run and rule the community and allocate funds to different areas. The community is run as a business and has something they do that they sell to bring in revenue. I lived on a kibbutz for 2 years. Everyone had a job even if it was cleaning plates in the kitchen, but everyone had a job to do and did it. They all had their own units, not houses but units. They all made the community work. They felt very proud of their community. Due to everyone working the kids were either being cared for in baby or childrens houses during the day and the older off to school. Wouldn't it be great to help them feel like they are something.

Those olders youths are present. In detention centres lets teach them a trade. Let them have a go at building, electrician. Plumbing etc and see what they like and what they may be good at. Let them see that they are capable of doing something and give them acknowledgement and allow them to feel proud of what they have done. Simply shoving them in detention where they are still doing nothing, just being little s.....ts doesn't teach them anything and half they time they like being in detention because they get fed 3 meals a day, they have a warm bed to sleep in. They probably don't get that at home.

So the stolen generation happened. It happened to English children, it happened to a lot of races throughout the world. But when they really think back they may have been stolen and it was very wrong but where would many of them be now. Many were given opportunities they would never have received staying in remote communities. Its time to stop living in the past. Its time to stop being scared to do the right thing. Its time for change. This youth epidemic has to stop.

Lets get the right people together to work on a solution that is good for all of us. Good for the youths and good for Australia.

Perhaps a remote station could be turned in to a centre where they are sent, where they are educated, shown that they are capable of so much more, where they can have safety to be who they are without being scared of going home. Lets break the cycle that will just continue if nothing is done soon. No soft mattresses, no airconditioning just the real bush that our ancestors lived in. Hard work so they are too tired to get up to anything. But let that hard work be for good so they can see they built something, they made something and they can learn to be proud of their achievements. Have people who are encouraging but firm. Have people who can educate but know the boundaries. Lets teach these kids boundaries. Lets show these kids that they can do something else other than mischief. Let them feel proud of themselves and what they have done. Give them a sense of purpose.

Many are very capable. But when they are told everyday they are untouchable

Regards

Carol Schefe

PS - My sister recently told me her best friend and husband were attacked in their own home [REDACTED]. When the husband told these youths to get off his property they started to bash in his front door. They then bashed through another door and demanded the car keys. The home owner said no and was attacked with a lump of steel. Whilst he was defending himself the other two youths ransacked the house. When they heard the police sirens they left got in the car they stole from a motel earlier and hot wheeled it out of town. The police gave chase but as soon as they crossed the border the police couldn't follow them. That is 1<sup>st</sup> ridiculous. They raced back to [REDACTED] and the police [REDACTED] found the stolen car burnt out. So the car owner is totally inconvenienced and has no car, and the home owners have a smashed up house and the husband bashed up as well. And guess what the youths have no consequences. They head off to mission and no one dares enters. Years ago a young woman from the mission wanted to be a nurse and was doing really really well. When she suddenly didn't turn up for work for a week the sister finally got hold of her on the phone. The young woman told the sister she wouldn't be coming back as her family told her she wasn't to work for no white fella. If this is the mentality - they are happy to take the money put in their account weekly. The houses built for them, that they just destroy anyway. low interest loans for cars etc. They are just taking taking and taking from Australian hard workers. They want to live like they were then let them go and live in a humpy. I think their tunes will change when they have to try and catch goanna to eat, and they have to sleep on the ground. Its about time they need to be proud of the other parts of their heritage.

My daughter had a girl in her boarding school abuse her at breakfast one morning. My daughter was sitting with her friends one being very much aboriginal, the other half when a girl from [REDACTED] who had blonder hair than my daughter was far whiter than my daughter - jump over a table to abuse my daughter for using an aboriginal word. One that the two girls sitting with her were laughing about. This is absurd mentality. Be proud you have indigenous blood but be proud of the other blood that runs through your veins.

Stop the indigenous only games, etc. Everyone plays together there should not be games, uni scholarships, art festivals that are indigenous only. As a white person if I was to hold a sports carnival and say that only white people can be at it I would be run out of the country. Can I ask why it is ok the other way??