

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

**Submission No:** 62  
**Submitted by:** Susan Jayasiriwardena  
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### Submitter Comments:

My house in [REDACTED] was broken into in June this year, on a Saturday morning in broad daylight (causing damage to 2 security screens) and my car was stolen from my garage. The car was trashed by the offenders and subsequently abandoned in [REDACTED]. All 4 tyres were wrecked, the driver side and passenger side doors were smashed and the battery was dead, clearly they had taken the car hooning. I was without my car for over a week and had to replace all 4 tyres and the battery in order to be able to drive it again at full cost to myself (unfortunately as it was an old car I only had 3rd party insurance on it). The police identified the perpetrators – a 12 and a 13 yr old, who they advised were known to them. They advised that the 13 yr old would be charged but that I was not entitled to know their names, when they would be in court or what their sentence would be... "for their privacy!". I was also advised that as they were youths, that I would not be entitled to any victim compensation. Not only has this cost me financially, my children and I now wonder constantly if someone is going to break in, every time we leave the house. We are left being hyper-vigilant and no longer comfortable going to bed at night without locking every single door and window "just in case". These perpetrators were known to the police...so why were they still out and about causing damage, inconvenience and cost to hard-working residents? These multi-offending youths are not just "children who do not know what they are doing" - they know fully what they are doing, they know that the consequences are minimal and that they basically "can get away with it". What is the incentive for my 16 year-old son to work 2 part-time jobs to afford to save for his first car, when he too could simply go and take someone else's car, knowing that he will likely get away with it and have a clean record again when turns 18?? We need to see public consequences for offenders of all ages, as a deterrent for others. Children need to learn the concept of action and consequence and in the current environment that simply does not seem to be happening. Being in the Army myself and having been through basic training at Kapooka, I am a firm believer that putting 'troubled youth' through similar programmes might provide them with some discipline and result in some self worth and respect for others.