

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

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I have been involved in the youth justice Qld sphere as a support person in restorative justice. I supported a few youths who all played the game well, said what was required and then walked out and committed similar offences of burglary or assault knowing they would only be slapped on the wrist that time and the next. Child safety and the youth justice department allow them to run wild and take no action when parents are encouraging this behaviour to get money for drugs, food or fuel. One particular family were all involved in criminal activity, the department's were aware however, nothing changed. They still ran riot throughout [REDACTED], they are still appearing before the magistrate, they are still committing crimes. The mother was reported for sex trafficking her teenage daughters and police, child safety and the department of youth didn't want to investigate the matter to be able to address it. One of the girls is a prostitute as an adult as that is all she knows how to do. No one ensured school attendance for that person or her siblings, they beat the daylight out of an elderly gentleman in company with others outside of the family unit and then blamed the victim for trying to protect his home and wife and getting injured. The mother encourages the crimes because she doesn't want to be charged as the adult she is meant to be and so she sends the kids out to commit crimes because even she knows they'll not receive any real repercussions if caught. All departments are aware and always send these kids back home, or to addresses close by where the kids decamp and return to the mother. The mother has been reported for giving drugs to her children, doing drugs such as marijuana, MDMA, ice with her children and nothing is ever done. If the most basic issues cannot be addressed to help turn them around, the lack of parenting, the neglect and the safety of the children, and they see their parents getting away with everything, why would kids think they have to follow the law. Top that with none of the department's or courts or programs offered make any difference and slapping them on the wrist and there really is no hope of reducing youth crime.