

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

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For consideration by the committee:

Adjustments to the current system once a young person is offending:

- Adults offending in the company of children – alterations to the legislation should be made to ensure that adults offending in the company of children are treated in a manner that reflects the adult's failure to provide a positive role model for the children with them.
- Resources are required to ensure children's matters can move through the court process quickly. Over exposure to the justice system only serves to increase the risk of offending.
- The parent/guardian of children under 15years should be required to attend court and comply with orders that serve to protect the community from their children.

Adjustments to systems to help break the cycle – by preventing young people entering the justice system:

- Considering suspension is known to increase antisocial behaviours in the school and the school community, a thorough review of suspension practices should occur looking into:
 - the over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other vulnerable populations
 - the impact of zero tolerance behaviour management models in school on suspension rates
 - review the merits of suspension legislation and policies considering the known link between suspension and criminal behaviour.
- Schools should be better resourced:
 - To cater for increasing complexity in behaviours.
 - To manage complex behaviour safely on the school ground reducing the need for out of school suspension.
 - Principal autonomy should be reduced to ensure consistency of practices across the state.
 - To assess and identify a broader range of health and wellbeing vulnerabilities and connect children and families to appropriate support pathways.
- Health systems should be better resourced:
 - When a school identifies a potential behavioural challenge with a young person - an assessment and supports for the family are enabled quickly to ensure minimal disruption to the child's education. It is not good enough that around 80% of young people in detention have diagnosable neurological disorders and nearly 40% have Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Most of which has not been picked up in the current screening and supports structures offered in Queensland Primary Schools.

Thank you for your consideration.