

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

Submission No: 125
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:

10/01/2024

Dear Committee Members

The impact of youth crime on the victim, their family and friends is lifelong. My family became the victims of a youth crime in 2012 when a 14 year old girl burnt down our property deliberately. The consequences for her were nothing. For my oldest son, they were extreme. He struggled in his last years of high school and moved interstate as soon as he finished. He feels he will never return to the town he grew up in, the scars are too deep.

My youngest son has also moved out of our town, with no intention to return. One of his best mates was king hit from behind one night in a main area of the town. His mate will suffer both medically and physically for many years as a result of this attack. He has permanent damage and continuing medical bills. It was the young perpetrators' second violent offence and he had already served time, yet he got to live life as normal for the following two years whilst the matter went through the courts. The length of time taken to go through the court system greatly increased the mental anguish felt by the victim and his family. My son's friend had to rebuild his life and spent a very large sum of money on medical expenses trying to rehabilitate.

The offender was finally sentenced before Christmas 2023 and the Courier Mail published a story about how this 'fine young rugby player' had to spend 4 months in prison (of a 2.5 year sentence), partly over Christmas, as if he was the victim. He was ordered to pay a small sum (comparatively) towards the victims' medical expenses. What in this is a deterrent to this offender?

The victim, his friends – including my son, do not go to this area anymore. In fact most do not come to the Sunshine Coast anymore other than to visit family. They all grew up here, but do not feel it is a place they choose to be.

The course of so many lives has been altered because of the actions of repeat offenders. Families are being broken.

Regards

Victim of crime