

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

Submission No: 140
Submitted by: Kerry Snell
Publication:
Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:

Mr. Kerry Snell

30 November 2023

Committee Secretary
Youth Justice Reform Select Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE Q 4000

Dear Committee Members

Please find attached my submission on Youth Justice Reform in Queensland. I write from the perspective of lived experience of all aspects of the justice system. As a Forgotten Australian, I was a victim of the system almost from birth. I have been both a perpetrator and a victim of crime, and so can write with authority about the experience.

I feel that the current youth justice system creates more victims – the victim of the crime itself; the young person becoming a prisoner of the system and therefore a victim of their own crime; and society itself. Young offenders are often led to crime through faulty reasoning and circumstances they have no control over, and often cannot see a different way. Many young people involved in the justice are, like me, starting from behind the goal posts, or have experienced adverse events in childhood, and can take years to recover from this.

Young people in the current youth detention system, and in adult correctional facilities, have little in the way of rehabilitation. These places become warehouses to hold people rejected by society and viewed as a threat. Youth in these facilities spend time doing nothing more than spinning their wheels and ending up further behind with respect to education, employment and social development, and these environments impact on growth and development at crucial life stages.

There needs to be a cultural shift in the youth justice system to foster change and development, and to ensure young people can be supported to find a better path. There should be capacity for people to gain valued vocational qualifications that would support them to enter the labour market when they leave. There could be paid job pilot programs that young people could be required to engage in so that they have marketable skills and money they could use on exiting the system for housing and other living expenses. In learning new skills, they could develop a sense of pride and achievement, and a chance to join society.

While we can never get rid of crime, we can respond to it in a way that recognises that young people need support to find a different way of being in society.

Yours Sincerely

Kerry Snell

Crims ~~Hay~~ they've been around for ever, and they're the ones that wont toe the line.

Once upon a time we simply beheaded-hung-shot just got rid of them, didn't matter if you stole a loaf of bread or murdered your neighbour off you go.

That was terrible and although we are a lot more civilized now, we are still doing the same, taking a loaf of bread or killing your neighbour off you go, just without the death thing. Now it's about how long before you get out and have a chance to get even get caught and go back or don't get caught and get rich, being inside does that, please stop the cycle. Tougher sentences and more detention centres are not the answer.

Custodial Community Correctional Programmes, Do that instead.

Call me I'll Explain. *KERRY SWELL*

