

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

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To: Youth Justice Reform Select Committee <youthjustice@parliament.qld.gov.au>

Subject: Upcoming meeting, Toowoomba

I have no wish to attend or speak, but would wish you to consider a view that some would consider outrageous.

Disciplinary measures have four objectives:

1. To deter similar potential offenders
2. To keep the public safe from risk
3. To give a sense of closure to those offended against
4. To rehabilitate the offender.

It is clear that the present measures are not working.

Magistrates are unwilling to give long custodial sentences because they would impede rehabilitation and damage any future career. So potential offenders will expect no more than a slap on the wrist in the form of probation or community service.

Some of those potential offenders might even regard a prison record as a badge of honour.

Should we not cast our mind back to methods that would offend our modern sense of morality?

A public birching, or its equivalent, would be a much greater deterrent.

It can be immediate, completed without taking time out of the life of the offender.

It would also give more sense of closure to the victims.

It should also be noted that youngsters are applying the equivalent of the 'stocks' in their social media, but they have a warped sense of justice.

Best wishes,

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