

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

**Submission No:** 149  
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**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Good afternoon, Thank you for coming to Mt Isa and hearing from our local communities and residents, it seemed that we talked a lot about reported crime and no one talked about the unreported crime that happens during the day when the children should be at school. I would like to make a couple of points which in hindsight I wish I had of registered to speak. My background is being a local. I came to Mt Isa when I was 2 left when I was in my 40's and came back to the Isa in November 2022. During my time away I still returned for my annual holidays twice a year, so I had a fair idea what the town was like and the changes. I moved back here to manage the local shopping centre complex - Mt Isa Village the only real shopping centre in town. The centre has a few specialty shops and a Coles and Kmart. Since November 2022 I have noticed an escalation in bullying, petty theft, public nuisance, willful damage to property and assault with weapons. These are mostly committed by young children aged between 6 and 16 and more females than males. the major shops have taken an approach of not detaining those that steal as they are concerned for the welfare of their staff. Of the 5-6 incidents everyday six days per week 3-4 should be reported to police however contacting the police is hard and you have to go online. By the time they appear they have run off only to come back later in the day or night. I would say that our customers have a fear of coming to the centre particularly at night for late night shopping as the children come in groups and yell, swear, steal and intimate customers staff. These children damage cars, throw rocks in the centre at the security guards and anyone who even just looks at them. This is just a small piece of what the local residents go through without the worry of being broken into and having their cars stolen. I could go on but thank you very much for your time.RegardsShelly Pappin