

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

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With respect to the human beings this would affect, I would like to lodge some suggestions on how to deal with youth crime in this state and country. •If the offender comes from another country, deport him/her and their relatives back to the country of origin. The parents should be sent back too because they probably brought this child here, were accountable and responsible for his upbringing..... and it is more humane to the child to have his family around him for comfort and guidance when he returns to the presumably more difficult environment from which they came. In some ways, the parents have not been taught, have not learned, or been able to appreciate, and therefore uphold the laws and privilege of being in a 'better country/life' as they have in Australia, and so it is perhaps best they be returned to the country of origin, to remind themselves of what they had and needed to try/work to strive to deserve. •If the offender is of Aboriginal descent, assess their best cultural influence, as to whether Western rehabilitation or Aboriginal rehabilitation might influence him/her in the most beneficial way. If the person doesn't respond to one, send to the other. If they do not respond to either, then prison and fate. At some point, the differences in our cultures need to meet on a middle road of agreement, for self-esteem and self-respect. Both cultures recognise these two personal traits as valuable in a community and individual sense. •If the offender is of Australian/ Western culture orientation, then they would know better of the laws that have been formulated and handed down through the Westminster and social system thereof and should be dealt with in a stronger way through disciplinary re-education and action, the courts and/or prisons, as befits someone who knows the difference between right and wrong from an early age. •An alternative would also be conscription for an extended period of time, and the disciplinary education and trade that would help to refocus and give the person a sense of duty, purpose and a place in a team environment, seeing how individual and group behaviour influences the outer world, and how it repercussions back to him/her in the long run. Hopefully this would open the person's mind and instil accountability and self-esteem, and a future trade to move into in civilian life later. •Another alternative would be to train them in community search and rescue, with a monitored time frame of volunteer work and accountability. This would be separate to, and would leave, the military free to defend the country as needed in disasters. Failure to meet the attendance and educational criteria can result in added time to the commitment, and prison if abused, neglected or unfulfilled. Doing this kind of work would build self-respect and self-value etc. and give skills that benefit both individual and community. It's time we took a tough love approach to the younger generations, as the times of affluence and convenience in which they were raised have served to make them needy, undisciplined and lazy, expecting others to do for them. We need to undo the indulgence of better times and put these people in to more worthwhile pursuits that instil purpose and hope into the future. We need education and courses for immigrants who come to this country in trades and community integration and laws. Give them a hand up not a hand out, and help to integrate them away from the ghettos to which they gravitate/make in certain suburbs. There need to be stricter probationary periods and whole family repercussions if a member of that family digresses from the laws of this country. They come here for a better life, but do not seem to know how to grow out of their old country habits and survival skills.