

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

**Submission No:** 161 - including supplementary submission  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name

### Attachments:

### Submitter Comments:

As someone who was involved directly and assisted the first responders at the incident on Finucan Road in Alexandra Hills on 26 January 2021 I have received no support, very limited engagement and refusal of the QPS to contact me or return my calls and emails regarding the incident, the court process and whether my significant injuries including spinal damage, nerve damage, anxiety and PTSD from the incident were even considered or given as information or included in charges against the youth who cause these injuries to me. I was even told by QPS officers a week prior to the trial that they 'weren't even aware I existed' or the extent of my injuries. This incident has massively impacted my life and will continue to for the balance of my working and personal life, that of my family including significant costs to me for 5 back surgeries, extensive time off work, ongoing mental health and medical support from psychologists, physiotherapists, GPs and pain specialist. Since the incident the increase in youth crime and ongoing failures of the government to appropriately address issues, meet and hear out victims of crime reinjures me and makes me feel ongoing unsafe, when the crime against me wasn't even in my home.

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To the Committee,

I was involved in the incident at Alexandra Hills on 26 January 2021 which sadly took the lives of Matt Field, Kate Leadbetter and their unborn Son Myles. The information below is an outline of my experience only and how I have navigated through, post incident and is to the best of my recollection.

I was stopped at traffic lights in my vehicle with my family and was waiting to turn right into Vienna Road at Alexandra Hills when a white 4WD which had been stolen by a youth high on drugs came speeding from Cleveland towards Alexandra Hills, clipped a tow truck (which was going to pick up a car which had been involved in an incident with the same stolen vehicle earlier in the day at the same intersection) and flipped end on end towards me, impacting Matt and Kate, a light post and then my vehicle before coming to a stop up the road some 15m from the impact.

Issues which I have faced since the incident are numerous and far reaching; ones which may be of assistance to the committee to note with respect to the Terms of Reference 1b and 2d are the following.

Regardless of the type of crime which is perpetrated victims need to be assisted and guided through post incident to obtain relevant and specialised medical treatment.

- In my case I was provided with a follow up phone call from a service which I believe was given my details by QPS. This was approximately a week after the incident. In my personal case I was not yet ready to engage in this service as I was still in extreme pain and shock from the incident. I had however seen a GP and was in the process of getting medical assessment for my injuries.
- Information on who to contact and how to obtain free or low cost medical treatment/assessment post crime would have been extremely helpful for myself and my family as it is a very overwhelming incident to be a part of and then to be left to fend for oneself.
- To date I have had to personally pay for all of my medical treatment and assessments, physio, psychology and have depleted all of my leave entitlements at my employment as along with all of the expected injuries (both mental and physical) from the incident I have had to endure 5 surgeries on my back which have required varying amounts of time off.

Crimes against property aren't considered eligible for assistance due to the way that those offences are captured and reported.

- I am of the understanding that I am unable to engage through victims assist the incident I was involved in was perpetrated against my vehicle, which then makes it considered a property crime (as was advised on the open hearing which took place on 21 February 2024 by the statisticians office).
- More work needs to be done through QPS and the statisticians to ensure that firstly, crime is appropriately captured, to ensure that victims of any type of crime are suitable for assistance and guidance through this process. The toll that juvenile crime has taken cannot be measured purely on whether or not it was a face to face interaction with the perpetrator.

Injuries sustained over \$50,000 are not eligible for Victims of Crime payments.

- Due to the injuries which I sustained from the incident which include - damage to my C, L and T spine, nerve damage to the right side of my body which extends from my cheek to the sole of my foot, loss of ability to grip in my hand, a post traumatic migraine from the impact and my brain moving in my skull, PTSD and Anxiety.
- Due to the extent of my injuries I was considered 'too high' above the threshold to claim through Victims of Crime and was referred to the Nominal Defendant.
- This made my claim a personal injury claim which once settled entitles my legal representation up to 49% of my claim payout and includes fees for legal representation. Additional costs are also removed from payouts to cover the money which Medicare has paid for my treatments.
- I will be penalised for remaining in employment from the time of the incident until the finalisation of my claim as its viewed that '*im well enough to function*'; however as I've had to personally pay for all of my medical expenses (outside of referrals through the nominal defendant) which are now in the tens of thousands I would have had to sell my home to fund this so that I could find some pain relief.
- The process of engaging a solicitor through the Nominal Defendant has been one which has retraumatised me over and over again as I have had to recount, explain, undergo medical, psychological and urine test and see over 8 specialists of varying backgrounds for both my solicitor and the payable insurer's solicitor to ensure that I am not lying or over reporting the impact of my injuries.
- It has been over 3 years since the date of the incident and I am still yet to have an initial mediation to close this matter.

Changes i'd like to see from QPS/DPP/Courts/Custodial Centres

- Dedicated and engaged police liaison or similar officers who are a point of contact for victims to gain an understanding of their matter, the process, ask questions of and be

contactable. I believe that this would assist the investigating officers need to use their time and resources to investigate and be across these frequently complex matters.

- The ability for all impacted victims of youth crime to be privy to the charges, court proceedings and sentencing of the juvenile. For me this would have given a lot of closure and understanding as I tried unsuccessfully for months to obtain information as to whether my injuries were presented as a charge.
- The ability for all victims to be given the opportunity to provide a Victim Impact Statement (VIS). At no point in the Court process was I kept informed or given the option to make a VIS even though I had expressed my desire too.
- The option for victims to engage in a restorative justice meetings when they are ready, during the duration of the sentence of the juvenile.
- All juvenile's engaged in schooling to a minimum grade 10 level, medical and psychological assistance to identify and break cycles.
- Empowered ways to give back to the community and their culture through elder and community lead initiatives.