

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

**Submission No:** 163  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Withhold name  
**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
15<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Committee,

Youth Justice Reform Select Committee.

### Stakeholder Evaluation

While youth crime is not new, it has become increasingly prevalent in my home region causing severe widespread economic, social and health problems within my community.

I have been a victim of these youth crimes. My parents have been victims of these youth crimes. My friends have been victims of these youth crimes. My neighbours have been victims of these youth crimes. There is not one person you can talk to in my town of Rockhampton who has not been a victim or know a victim of youth crime.

I live in fear within my home, on the streets, in my car and even in public places policed by security. We have resorted to locking our cars while we are driving, so we do not fall victim to hijacking. We lock our dogs away at night from the freedom of their own backyard as unlawful trespassers are baiting them. We lock our power boxes to hinder young criminals attempts to draw us out of our houses in the middle of the night. We spend countless dollars installing excessive security screens, locks, and cameras to ensure we are safe in our own beds while we sleep. We spend the extra money we can't afford on running air conditioning at night as it is too risky to leave our windows open for fresh air. We close the blinds, turn all the lights off (even though our children beg for a night light to stay on), and turn off or cover up the lights on our appliances, all so these thieves cannot see into our house. We pay higher insurance premiums because we live in areas where youth crime is so high yet is not being recognised for relief from the government! Our children live in fear to play till dusk in their own backyard, in fear while driving in the car to music lessons as they see youth walking around our cars while waiting at lights, in fear when doing such simple everyday tasks like grocery shopping because groups of youth are formed in carparks and shops yelling and threatening shoppers. I feel for these children who have had unimaginable upbringings that have sent them down this path of youth crime, but I feel even more for other children like my own who are living in constant fear of these relentless hardened criminals.

Where are the consequences for these repeat offenders; like the group of youths that stole my father's car and rode it off? They were known to police, had been processed and through the court systems many of times! Again, just given a slap on the wrist and back on the streets.

How many times do they have to reoffend before sentencing fits the crime? Are we waiting until some innocent person is killed? That is already happening in other regions, I guess we are just waiting for it to happen here?

Not only does the sentencing need to be strengthened for ALL repeat youth offenders, but public confidence in the youth justice system needs to be restored.

Victims of youth crime and even the wider community who must spend money they can't afford to secure their home into indestructible fortresses or live in constant fear of leaving their homes need to be supported.

Youth crime won't disappear, but it is not just the responsibility of the community to invest in preventative security measures, it is the responsibility of the youth justice system to ensure that repeat offenders are not released onto the streets to continue their callous, vicious, and relentless crimes.

Sincerely hoping,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.