

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

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Youth Justice Reform Select Committee](#)  
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Enquiry into Youth Crime,

Dear Secretary,

I am disgusted at the way people in Qld suffer at the hands of criminal youth. My husband Gordon was recuperating after breaking his leg, when our car was stolen early on 22nd February, last year. Two weeks later a car a good friend had lent us was spray painted while I was in Northside Plaza. Over 3 months after our car was stolen, it was returned. There are many outcomes of a stolen car. We had to borrow money as our bank cards were in the car. We had to get our son to sleep at our house the first night as the thieves had the keys to our house. We had to renew the locks. We had to ring banks to cancel cards- ring Telstra to cancel our phones. The list goes on and on. Insurance only gave us a car for 2 weeks. Then my husband was diagnosed with cancer of the bladder and had chemo and radiation, not helped by, and possibly caused by the stress we suffered. I am now 81 and Gordon is now 87. We now have security lights.

It is not just the stolen car but all the drama for months after. The hoodlums who did this claimed to be 17. I believe they were much older. Being under 18, they get off scott free to do the same thing again and again.

The law feels sorry for the "poor criminals", while the victims are forgotten. Some of the victims have died, while others suffer from the trauma for years. I know that for a fact.

The problem I believe is people who have been non-workers for 5 generations. The offspring have never seen their family work for a living. Shocking home lives produce badly behaved children. Schools cannot discipline bad behaviour. There are many good schools but too many produce children who cannot read or write at a time when more money is being spent on education. The discipline is sadly lacking and will lead to badly behaved youth crime. Money is not the answer.

I blame our former premier Anastasia who brought in the laws protecting under 18yo criminals.

I feel very sorry for the police who deal with youth crime. Many have left the force when we need them.

Something must be done to protect decent people.

Thank you, I remain, yours sincerely, Helen Wyland (Mrs.) Ph  
[REDACTED]

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Gordon Wyland

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