

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

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Submitter Comments:

Executive brain function is not fully developed until early adulthood. Especially important is inhibitory control and planning. I believe it is inhumane, cruel and also ineffective to punish children for actions that they are developmentally not equipped to fully think through and make rational decisions. The minimum age for criminal responsibility must be raised. It is suggested to raise the minimum age for criminal responsibility to 14 years. I think it ought to be at least 15 as in Sweden and emphasis on developmental care and education to facilitate development and integration as psychologically and socially adjusted citizens.