

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

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The committee needs to strongly consider that this has been an ongoing and worsening problem since the weakening of youth justice laws in 2016. Since that time there have been literally tens of thousands of victims. These victims are often left with life-long consequences. The consequences range from the simple financial burden imposed by having their possessions stolen, their property damaged and their mode of transport (in the case of unlawful use of a motor vehicle) being taken from them at least temporarily or sometimes permanently. However, the emotional trauma of having one's home invaded and property tampered with and stolen is something that many people simply don't just get over. Many people live with the results of being a victim of crime for many years. In the case of where people or their loved ones have been killed or seriously injured these effects can last a LIFETIME. All the while for over 7 years consecutively now in regional Queensland we have let this go on and on and on and I am a voice for all of those tens of thousands of victims. Everyone keeps talking about a "core group of recidivist offender" and their rights, their welfare and their circumstances. Well, it is time that the QUEENSLAND STATE GOVERNMENT started thinking more about the rights, welfare and security of decent law-abiding Queenslanders. Let's start by calling the offenders what they are - THEY ARE SERIOUS, LIFE ENDANGERING HABITUAL CRIMINALS. Many of the offenders have been cautioned many, many times before being finally arrested and charged. Thereafter many of them have had numerous chances before the courts with no conviction recorded time and time and time again. Some of these criminals have dozens and dozens of serious, criminal offences to their names and STILL NOTHING IS DONE to permanently deprive them of their liberty in order to protect Queenslanders who deserve equal if not greater consideration than the criminals. Both sides of Politics need to stop making this issue a political football. Currently we have one side of politics who are refusing to admit that mistakes have been made in weakening youth justice laws purely because they are worried about the opposition scoring political advantage. This has resulted in people dying whilst government announces smoke and mirror reforms that does absolutely NOTHING TO FIX THE problem. A typical example of this was around the issue of breach of bail being an offence for juveniles. For ages the labor party argued against this, with my own local MP blocking me from contacting him further because I tried to explain why he was wrong. As a result, further people died due to crimes committed by people who should have already been in jail and I forever will believe that the current state government is wilfully complicit in the deaths of those people. Eventually due to enough pressure breach of bail was made an offence and then then very people who argued against it tried to take credit for it. This is absolutely ridiculous and farcical for any thinking person to witness. As a result, we now have the ridiculous situation whereby offenders, criminals, are arresting (perhaps for the tenth or fiftieth time) and bail is opposed, they are then held on remand for months and yet when these serious, life endangering criminals get before the court they are simply let go. Therefore we, as law abiding members of the public, get a reprieve for weeks or maybe months but then the wheel turns and it (the serious, life endangering criminal offending) is back on again. It is time, in fact way beyond time, for the government to legislate minimum sentencing for these repeat offenders. Everyone deserves a chance or two BUT these are criminals OF THE AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY. They are NOT children making a mistake as many would have you believe. They are racist, cowardly thugs often preying on the weak, vulnerable, or elderly to get their way. They are often armed with knives or machetes and attack people without consideration or concern. This offending will only continue and in fact will escalate if nothing is done to send a strong message that this behaviour will NOT BE TOLERATED. We, as a society, are NOT doing these children any favours with a continuous

stream of chances and lack of consequences for actions. We are IN FACT encouraging their offending and emboldening them to go on to more regular and more serious offending simply because they know there are no consequences. They are laughing at the police. Not only that, but they are also deliberately provoking and attacking Police. They are laughing at the system, and they are quite ready to maim and kill. It is obvious in the videos and other messages they post to social media. They are not scared one bit. It has been said that if a criminal does not fear authority then he must be taught to fear his victim. If this government continues to let serious life endangering criminal conduct go on and on as it has been for the past 7 years, then MORE PEOPLE WILL DIE. It is only a matter of time. You MUST take swift and decision action to have these criminals locked up for at least 12 months. Preferably several years. It takes 4 years on average for someone to learn a trade. These criminals have shown that they don't care for us as a society. If we truly care for them, then deprive them of their liberty for long enough that they can be FULLY rehabilitated. They can be taught a trade or other skills over a period of years so that they can rejoin society with some sense of responsibility and belonging, and who knows, maybe they will go on to lead a valuable and productive life. Given them free reign to offend, get locked up for weeks or months then get back out to do it all again is quite simply insanity, and the current Government should hang their heads in shame for letting it happen. Are you happy to have more and more and more roadside memorials? Are you happy for more of us to hold annual vigils for our loved ones who are no longer with us because you lot don't have the guts to fix the problem. My real and very well-founded fear based on everything I have seen is that the answers to these questions is YES. [REDACTED] I hope I am wrong. However, I was NOT wrong in everything I have said since we lost Jennifer Board, lets see where we go from here. Your choice. The blood is and will be forever on your hands if you DO NOT ACT. The clock is ticking, and everyone is watching. Brett Geiszler.JP.