

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

Submission No: 195
Submitted by: Inspiring Brighter Futures Foundation
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: See attachment
Submitter Comments:



Submission to the Parliamentary Committee Enquiry into Youth Justice Reform in Queensland

RE-BUILDING THE VILLAGE

A Collaborative Youth Justice Welfare Solution

This collaboration provides wellbeing and employment mentoring for prevention, early intervention, and/or community transition support for traineeships, apprenticeships, and work for young at-risk Queenslanders.

At a time when young people face many challenges, and youth crime by repeat offenders is prevalent, Inspiring Brighter Futures Foundation (IBFF) is leading a collaboration who are committed to supporting the people of Queensland and the State Government. A holistic, person-centric, and collaborative community (referred to as the village) solution has been formed to inspire brighter futures for our at-risk young Queenslanders. The continued success of this program can only be achieved with support and funding from the State Government.

Inspiring Brighter Futures Foundation is making a significant impact on high-risk Queensland youths. Now with a collaborative place-based solution, the impact will be accelerated.

This collaborative solution will commence work with at-risk youths in Deception Bay, Sunshine Coast (including Noosa), Gold Coast, Ipswich, Townsville, Logan, and Brisbane. It will then extend to Rockhampton, Gympie, and Cairns where IBFF delivery partners operate.



Re-building the Village – Prevention, Early Intervention to Traineeships, Apprenticeships to Work.

Re-building the Village is a community-driven solution led by IBFF with its partners Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA), Education Queensland and YMCA schools, Ramsay Psychology (RP - a division of Ramsay Health Care), Australian Training Company (ATC), and PeopleIN (PI). The collaboration works closely with Queensland youth who have or are in the process of disengaging from school and/or the community. It is primarily focused on the young person and walking with them to become the best versions of themselves, so they can in turn contribute positively to the community. Additional partners will become involved in the collaborative delivery to increase the reach and range of services, such as food relief, local program facilitation, and wellbeing program support.

The solution is proven and a highly successful youth welfare activation. Impactful, one-on-one mentoring wellbeing programs, flexi school education, specialist psychologists and workplace, training and apprenticeship opportunities and networks all working together to deliver a coordinated person-centric youth welfare solution. With the current co-funding from the federal government for flexi school education and the mental health plans delivered by RP, the state government has the opportunity to make sustained change and impact not only with disengaged youths but also local communities and Queensland.

If you focus on the system – you may win or you may lose. If you focus on the young person – you will win every time. (adapted from Patch Adams)

Tried, true and successful solutions – person centric.

IBFF provide mentors, one-on-one mentoring, and wellbeing programs, matched to young person's needs.

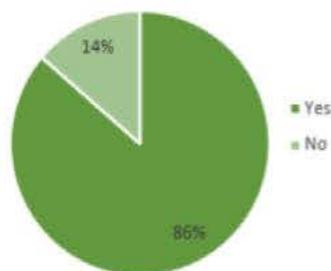
Early Intervention & Prevention Programs for Queensland Youth

In 2022 and 2023, IBFF committed to work with 1,100 high-risk youths in four regions in Queensland with its one-on-one mentoring wellbeing program and wellbeing workshops. It also committed to developing and launching a digital version of the 8-week Onwards & Upwards Online program (DLP – Digital Learning Platform). As of November 15, 2023, IBFF has worked with 1256 youths in seven Queensland cities and launched the DLP ahead of the proposed timelines.

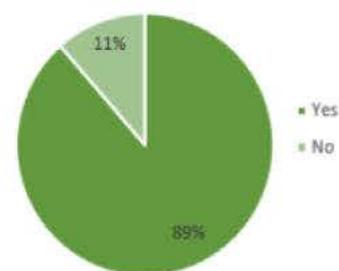


IBFF is making a significant impact on high-risk Queensland youths. The results in the graphs and tables demonstrate the value of a person-centric program which in the last two years has positively impacted 1256 high-risk young people.

86% of participants surveyed said the program has helped improve their self esteem



89% of participants surveyed said the program increased their motivation to succeed in school and life



The data below is above from the self-assessment tool from 1100 participants undertaking the current wellbeing mentoring programs and workshops. The responses demonstrate the success of the wellbeing and early intervention programs delivered by IBFF, with data demonstrating that 86% and 89% of participants respectively believed their self-esteem and self-motivation improved.

A further in-depth study of 287 participants undertaking the Onwards & Upwards one-on-one mentoring programs demonstrated the improvements listed in the table below. In this review, the respective teachers and case workers rated the youth's progress over a 6-month period – including three months post the completion of the mentoring program.

- ✓ **74% of participants' outlook on life improved**
- ✓ **77% of participants' self-image improved**
- ✓ **76% of participants' self-esteem and confidence improved**
- ✓ **70% of participants' self-motivation improved**
- ✓ **74% of participants improved their ability to set and achieve goals**
- ✓ **71% of participants improved their trust in adults.**

The results show that the participants continued to improve in all thirteen areas of their lives, which demonstrated demonstrates? the ongoing benefits, progress, and learning that the young people continued to experience in their lives.



Further, the statistics demonstrate that improvements in the listed areas above are likely to further contribute to a participant's success in their education/work-ready programs.

In addition to the items listed, these thirteen areas also include evaluations of:

- Class and school attendance
- Engagement with school and class activities
- Relationships with peers, and teachers
- The ability to communicate one on one.
- The ability to communicate in small groups.

86% of these young people believed that their self-esteem had improved.

89% experienced an increased motivation to succeed in life and school.

The financial savings to the community when related to wellbeing, early intervention, and prevention with the IBFF person-centric programs are yet to be estimated. The social return on investment is significant, particularly when one considers the impact on the families and communities affected by poor wellbeing and mental health. The 1000s of stories and recounts from the program participants currently being delivered share some of the qualified impact. Comments such as:

"If it wasn't for you, Shaina (my mentor), and the program I wouldn't have made my 16th birthday." Year 10 female student

"12 months ago, I was stealing cars, addicted to drugs, and living on the streets. I now have a job and I am doing well at school and living at home again." Year 10 female student

"I realised that I was 'hangin' (sic) with the wrong crowd and I wasn't proud of myself." 22-year-old ex-offender / bikie - male.

"I can't explain how good the program was." Year 10 female student.

Supporting the Government's youth strategies

Supporting the delivery of the State Government's Queensland Youth Strategy, the Working Together Changing the Story: Youth Justice Strategy 2019–23, the work of the Youth Crime Taskforce, and the extension of the Exit program, the government is invited to invest in a program for three years that delivers wellbeing, early intervention, and



community re-engagement programs for young Queenslanders at high risk and disengaging or who have disengaged from school and the community.

Inspiring Brighter Futures Foundation (IBFF), Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA), Ramsay Psychology (RP), Australian Training Company (ATC) and PeopleIN (PI) will deliver a network of mentors, teachers, psychologists, and employment specialists to support young Queenslanders who are at high risk. The network/village will provide wellbeing, mentoring, educational, values-based goal setting, and where required psychology and employment services.

It is the community's responsibility to raise the child.

The Problem – together we will solve.

Re-building the Village – is a collaborative youth welfare solution.

Youth crime is a complex issue and requires a **HOLISTIC PERSON CENTRIC** solution that is a **COLLABORATIVE** and **COORDINATED** approach. It includes wellbeing and prevention programs, early intervention programs, psychological support services, community re-engagement transition programs, and mentors to walk with young people.

The journey involves prevention and wellbeing programs, early intervention programs and services, and if required, transition programs for the offenders re-engaging with the community.

To support the young person on their journey from school and into sustained employment they require a village of advocates and mentors to be able to live a life that contributes positively back to the community and the village that has backed them.

Wellbeing and Prevention

The Wellbeing and Prevention Strategy will be delivered in safe secure and supportive learning environments at EREA's 13 Queensland Flexible Learning Centres, YMCAs, and Education Queensland schools. This will be delivered through and within EREA's education programs and pedagogy and IBFF's Onwards & Upwards Wellbeing Digital Learning Platform.

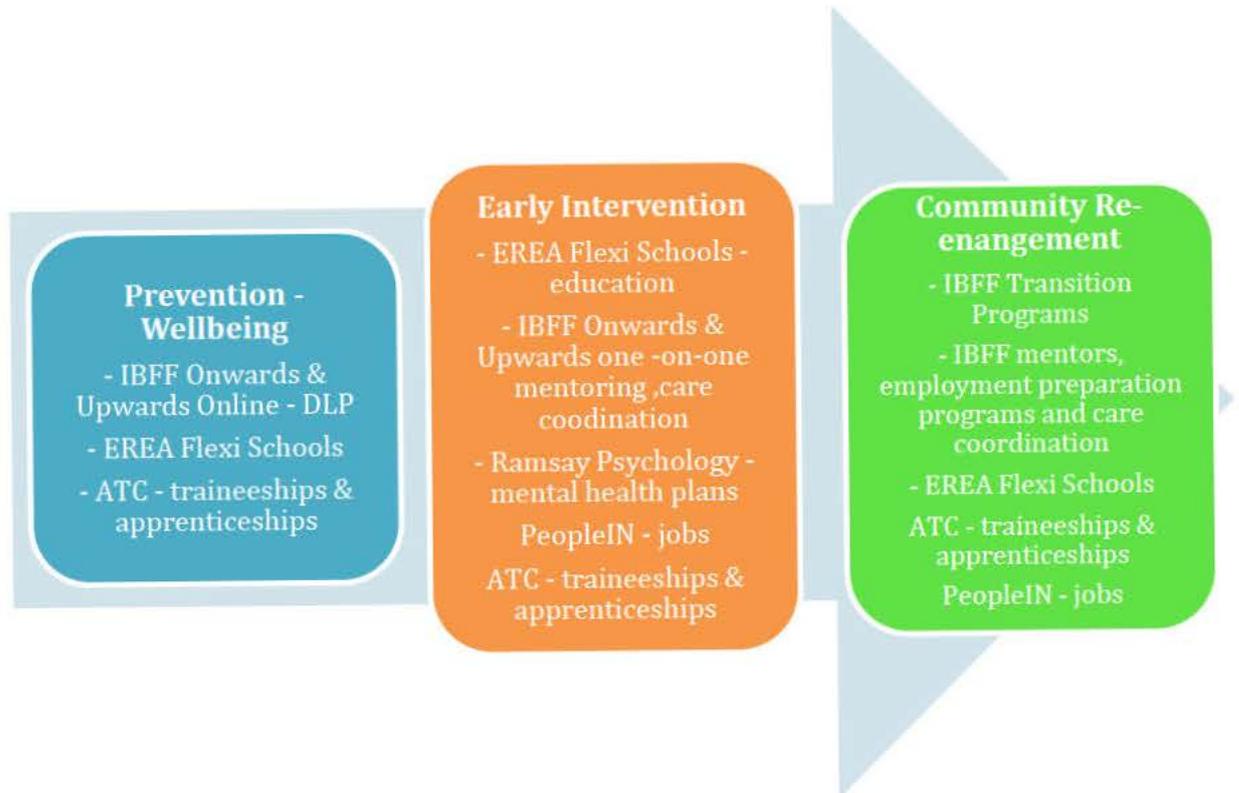


Early Intervention

IBFF's one-on-one wellbeing mentoring program will be delivered as a key part of the Early Intervention Strategy, again in the secure and safe environment of EREA's Flexible Learning Centres. Flexi schools educate a cohort of thousands of Queensland students who don't engage with the mainstream school system. The flexi school system is best suited to re-engage the young person and have them find their success and contribute positively and meaningfully to the community. Ramsay Psychology's 112 Queensland-based practitioners will deliver mental health care plans to the young people who need this additional support. PeopleIN will provide employment opportunities, support, and networks to the young people needing work. As required, the services provided by RP and PI may also be accessed as a part of the prevention strategy.

Community Re-engagement

In cases where the young person is in detention, IBFF will provide transition programs and post-term term one-on-one mentoring as it currently delivers for the Exit Program participants. PI, ATC, RP, and EREA will also be involved in providing services and programs. This holistic Community Re-engagement program will enable the young person to graduate from school and access psychology services and/or employment. The community re-engagement provides the appropriate learning, mentoring, counselling, and psychological rehabilitation as required. As such, youth offenders can be supported to re-engage successfully back into the community.



A collaborative youth welfare solution - overview

The partners and deliverables – *Re-building the Village.*

Using a holistic network of partners – *Re-building the Village* customises the care and support to the young person's needs.



Inspiring Brighter Futures Foundation – care coordinator and program partner delivering the collaborative solution.



- Onwards & Upwards Online – a wellbeing program for Year 7 and 8 HPE classes - DLP
- Onwards & Upwards wellbeing mentoring program – one on one mentoring program.
- Ex-offenders post-term mentoring and transition program in conjunction with the Queensland Police Service.

For nearly 14 years, IBFF has been providing mentoring services to high-risk and disengaged 13-to-18-year Queensland school students in seven cities. The values-based goal-setting program has changed lives and improved the wellbeing, outlook on life, and school engagement of the young people.

The estimated financial savings to Queensland and the community, when related to wellbeing, early intervention, and community re-engagement person-centric programs, are yet to be estimated but will be significantly greater not only in dollar terms but also in emotional and community wellbeing and confidence. The social return on investment is priceless when one compares the success of the current programs, the thousands of stories and recounts from the program participants currently being delivered, and the amount the government can save. Comments such as the ones below provide a snapshot of the positive impacts.

“Not only did you change my life – you saved it.”

“If it wasn’t for you, my mentor and the program I wouldn’t have made my 16th birthday.”

“I can’t thank my mentor enough – he changed my life.”

“The program was so good; I can’t explain it.”

“My mentor went out of their way for me is amazing – thank you Prue.”

EREA (Edmund Rice Education Australia) – providing educational environment, facilities, and services.

- The largest national non-government school-aged education organisation in Australia.
- 55 schools, plus 34 associated schools and 40,000 students.
 - In Queensland:
 - 13 Flexi schools for high-risk and disengaged school students – Ipswich Central, Boondall, Southport, Brisbane, Albert Park, Inala, Hemmant, Noosa, Gympie, Rockhampton, Townsville, and Mount Isa.
 - Nine Colleges, catering for years 5 to 12 schools.
 - Two Early Education Centres.
 - 12 associated secondary and primary years schools.



EREA's first Flexible Learning Centre was established in 1987 at Kingston in Logan City. The Centre Education Programme was developed from the Christian Brothers' work in the Juvenile Justice System through the Children's Court in Logan City.

The principles driving the EREA Flexi School programs are based upon forming a common ground for relationships to be established in a non-judgmental, inclusive, and flexible way that helps young people engage in their learning and wellbeing.

Ramsay Psychology (RP) a division of Ramsay Health Care – *providing psychological support services.*

- Mental health challenges including a history of trauma and undiagnosed/untreated developmental issues are often a root cause of offending in young people. It is estimated that 60% of young offenders have two or more mental health disorders and 33% of young people in custody report high to very high levels of psychological distress (Costello & Maughan, 2015). Dysfunctional lifestyles and a lack of coordinated support often severely limits the opportunity for young people to get access to mental health treatment that works.
- RP is a dedicated community-based psychology service committed to providing specialised treatment and support for people across a range of mental health conditions including anxiety, depression, substance misuse and addiction, trauma, relationships issues, child/adolescent development, eating disorders, and young person's mental health issues.
- RP has over 100 psychologists who provide in-person and telehealth sessions across Australia. In 2022/23, RP delivered over 50,000 treatment sessions demonstrating high accessibility to specialised care from any location in Australia.
- In Queensland, RP has clinics in Fortitude Valley, Ipswich, Southport, Coolangatta, Maroochydore, and Cairns and strong connections to Ramsay Mental Health inpatient and outpatient mental health treatment facilities in New Farm, Gold Coast, Caloundra, Rockhampton, and Cairns.

RP provides high-quality, personalised care, employing evidence-based treatment strategies to help young people work through and manage your mental health concerns. RP take a flexible and compassionate approach to care, offering both in-person and telehealth appointments. Through the establishment of clinics in both inner city, outer city and regional areas, RP is committed to maximising accessibility for people in need no matter where they live.

PeopleIN - *Job network partner*

With more than 20 years experience developing a suite of brands that set the bar for service in their specialist areas, PeopleIN is committed to continuing to inspire excellence in everyone with whom they work.



- 25 brands, 50,000+ candidates, 4000+ businesses, and 40 locations specialising in niche talent across
 - Healthcare & Community – including - nursing, home care, and aged care employment.
 - Professional Services- including - IT, project management, finance, and business management work and career opportunities.
 - Industrial & Specialist – including - mining, construction, manufacturing, maintenance, government, childcare, and hospitality employment.
- 15,000 roles hosted every week.
- The largest ASX-listed talent solutions company in Australia and New Zealand.
- Offices in a range of Queensland regions including – Cairns, Townsville, Mount Isa, Rockhampton, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Toowoomba, and Brisbane.
- PeopleIN’s national HQ is in Brisbane.

Australian Training Company – traineeships and apprenticeship provider

Commencing its operations in Queensland, the Australian Training Company (ATC) is a leading provider of business solutions through the creation of education, employment, and training opportunities.

Established in 1994 ATC has provided employment and training for more than 20,000 apprentices, trainees, and students nationally. ATC is a not-for-profit organisation an accredited Group Training Organisation (GTO) and a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). In 1998, in response to increasing industry demands for tailored education programs, ATC became a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). ATCs training operation promotes flexible study arrangements and an inclusive learning culture for all.

The young person's journey.



The commitment

From 2024, Re-building the Village we will be delivering the full suite of services and programs in 13 Queensland cities to at-risk and disengaged 14- to 24-year-old students and young people. In three years, the collaboration will positively impact over 2500 young people at risk in Queensland.

Delivery timelines

January to July 2024 – Setting the Foundation

- Activate the pilot program which includes the successful delivery of the Onwards & Upwards Online (DLP), and the early intervention one-on-one mentoring wellbeing programs in EREA Flexible Learning Centres and four Education Queensland Schools



along with, the integration with Ramsay Psychology and their psychological support services for identified students at risk and the appropriate engagement with employment, training and/or apprenticeships.

July – December 2024 – Moving Onwards & Upwards

- Twenty-four one-on-one mentoring wellbeing programs at twelve different schools across seven different cities for disengaged year 9 to 12 students in EREA, Education Queensland, and YMCA schools.
- Pilot Community Re-engagement program in conjunction with Queensland Police Service and EREA Flexible Learning Centres – Gold Coast.
- Scale Ramsay Psychology support service sessions for identified participants.
- Pilot the DLP into five schools for Years 7 and 8.
- Activate the ATC training and apprenticeship engagement and the PeopleIN job placements for the participants to commence training, apprenticeships, or work.

July – December 2024

- Thirty one-on-one mentoring wellbeing programs to twenty different schools across seven different cities for disengaged year 9 to 12 students in Queensland State, EREA Flexi Schools, and YMCA schools.
- Commence the Community Re-engagement program in conjunction with QPS in the Gold Coast region.
- Continue Ramsay Psychology support service sessions for identified participants.
- Launch the DLP into thirteen different schools.
- Continue traineeships, apprenticeships, and employment engagement programs.

2025 and 2026

- 70+ one-on-one mentoring wellbeing programs at 20 different schools across seven different cities for disengaged year 9 to 12 students in Queensland State, EREA Flexi Schools, and YMCA schools per year.
- Successful activation of Community Re-engagement program in Brisbane, Townsville, Gold Coast, Logan, and Moreton Bay regions.
- Continue Ramsay Psychology session delivery for identified participants.
- DLP into schools for Years 7 and 8 into twenty new schools per year.
- Continue traineeships, apprenticeships, and employment engagement programs.

Co-investing in Queenslanders.

The investment of \$788,320ex GST for the first year and \$833,820ex GST for years two and three will cover the delivery and care coordination of the wellbeing, one-on-one mentoring, and school-based educational programs, psychology sessions, and employment for local delivery in over 13 Queensland cities. For this investment, *Re-building the Village*



led by IBFF will positively impact 2500 young people by 2027 with wellbeing programs, one-on-one mentoring access to specialist psychologists, and workplace training and opportunities. IBFF is responsible and accountable for delivering these metrics.

The investment equates to \$982 per young Queenslanders whose life has been positively impacted by the Re-building of the Village.

Re-building the Village partners will contribute the facilities, expertise, and programs for the flexi schools' education, mentoring and wellbeing programs, community re-engagement programs, psychology, and employment services locally throughout Queensland. The funding will also engage, coordinate, and activate mentors to walk with the young as they negotiate life and transition into work either from school or from detention. The Federal Government through its current education and health care funding covers the Flexi school delivery and 50% of the psychology sessions via the Mental Health Care Plans.

The benefits for at-risk and disengaged youth in Queensland and our community are significant and far-reaching. Together, we can build the village and inspire brighter futures for all Queenslanders.

Yours sincerely,

John J Godwin

John Godwin

Founder & CEO, Inspiring Brighter Futures Foundation

██████████
██



APPENDIX

IBFF Program Success

IBFF's eight-week Onwards & Upwards wellbeing mentoring program and its online digital platform (DLP) mentors, supports, and inspire youths and young adults to build a strong self-esteem. The one-on-one mentoring and the online wellbeing programs walk with students on their journey to learn that they are in charge of their lives, their choices, and actions.

Our trained facilitators and volunteer mentors have worked with 5712 participants across all ages and backgrounds. Participants have learnt the practical skills to improve their self-esteem, identify personal values, and develop a growth mindset and resilience. Participants have learnt how to set and activate their goals that they can apply in their everyday personal and work lives. Over the page, are some key statistics that prove the success of programs and the investment contributed.

The IBFF DLP, one on one mentoring, pre-employment and transition programs walk with the participants as they journey to be better version of themselves by:

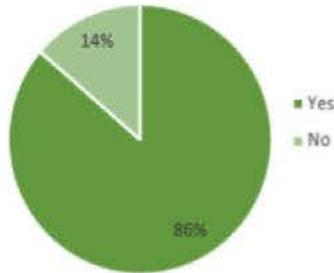
- ✓ Identifying their **VALUES** and learning how live and make decisions based upon their values.
- ✓ Re-building a healthy **SELF-IMAGE** to implement positive changes in their lives.
- ✓ Defining their purpose based upon their **VALUES** and a **VISION STATEMENT** of the person they wish to become.
- ✓ Setting and activating **SMART GOALS** for their lives from a family, school, work, finance, friendship, mind body spirit and hobbies / vocation perspective.
- ✓ Practicing **GRATITUDE** as well as giving and receiving **AFFIRMATIONS**.
- ✓ Developing a **HEALTHY MIND BODY SPIRIT** with healthy eating, exercising, sleeping and visual habits.
- ✓ Finding their group to **BELONG**, based upon their values.
- ✓ Preparing and transitioning into the workplace and their **CAREER PATHWAYS**.
- ✓ Developing their own **BUDGET** to save money to achieve their financial goals.
- ✓ Improve their **INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION** skills.

IBFF gathers data from each program it implements in schools. This data is analysed and evaluated to provide insight into program improvement. From an evaluation conducted by the students' teachers, the progress of 287 students was reported to the Federal Government in November this year.

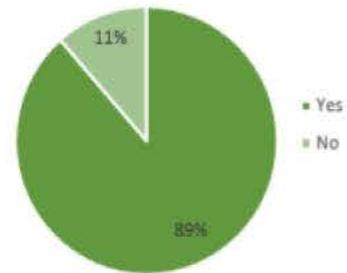
Data snapshots below outline levels of effectiveness.



86% of participants surveyed said the program has helped improve their self esteem



89% of participants surveyed said the program increased their motivation to succeed in school and life



The disengaged students showed improved engagement of youth at high risk in education, work ready programs and the community more generally.

The below statistics demonstrate how the Program has had a "direct" impact on the participants engagement in education and work ready programs:

- A 74% of participants engagement in class/school activities improved
- B 56% of participants attendance at school / class lessons improved
- C 74% of participants improved their relationships within the school with teachers and peers
- D 64% of participants improved their academic confidence
- E 46% of participants improved their academic performance
- F for 77% of participants their one-on-one communication improved
- G for 76% of participants their group communication improved

In addition to the above "direct" improvements, the below statistics demonstrate that improvements in the areas (H to M) are likely to further contribute to a participant's success in their education/work ready programs:

- H for 74% of participants their outlook on life improved
- I for 77% of participants their self-image improved
- J for 76% of participants their self-esteem and confidence improved
- K for 70% of participants their self-motivation improved
- L for 74% of participants their ability to set and achieve goals improved
- M for 71% of participants their trust in adults improved

Queensland Youth Crime Research

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Queenslanders aged between 10 and 17 commit more crimes than the general population. However, while Queensland's youth crime rate has been decreasing over the years there are still concerns about the high number of repeat offenders and the types of crimes committed by young people.



In 2022, 61% of young people who exited detention returned within 12 months. Further the Queensland Family and Child Commission has stated that detention is the most expensive and least effective way to address youth offending.

According to a report by Griffith University, some of the risk factors related to youth offending include:

- poverty
- poor parenting practices
- family violence and abuse
- criminal attitudes and peers
- lack of suitable or unstable housing
- substance abuse
- poor life skills
- mental illness
- school non-attendance/drop-out
- unemployment
- excess of unstructured time and boredom ¹.

Re-building from the studies undertaken by Griffith University, in addition to the current legal measures, there are several other ways to address youth crime. These include:

- **Wellbeing programs – Onwards & Upwards Wellbeing Digital Learning Platform:** addresses mental health and wellbeing concerns / issues in young people. Through a gamified, interactive online environment, the Digital Learning Platform will support young people aged 12-13 years achieve mental wellbeing through values-based goal setting and vision. Leveraging technology, including video, animation, and interactive activities, the DLP extends IBFF's already successful Onwards & Upwards program and provides opportunity for young people to celebrate their vision and plans for the future.
- **Prevention programs:** Programs that aim to prevent young people from engaging in criminal activities in the first place. These programs can include mentoring, education, and employment opportunities¹.
- **Early intervention:** Identifying and addressing risk factors that may lead young people to commit crimes. This can include providing support for families, mental health services, and drug and alcohol treatment¹.
- **Restorative justice:** This approach focuses on repairing the harm caused by a crime rather than punishing the offender. This can include mediation between the victim and offender, community service, and other forms of reparative action¹. It must be noted that there is no clear evidence that restorative justice works. The current application of restorative justice in Queensland requires a review. There are some concerns that the current restorative approach in youth justice has not honoured key principles for a successful restorative justice approach.



It is more than reasonable to say that the primary underlying issue causing disengagement and eventual youth crime is a young person's wellbeing and mental health.

National Wellbeing Research

Almost **two in five** people (39.6%) aged **16-24 years** had a **12-month mental disorder**. (ABS, 2022. National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing) **Anxiety** was the most common group of **12-month mental disorders** (16.8% or 3.3 million people). (ABS, 2022. National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing)

Student wellbeing is a crucial aspect of academic achievement, attendance, and engagement with school. According to the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited, educators and school communities play a significant role in supporting and developing learner wellbeing ². School attendance provides a safe place for the young people to belong, learn, be fed, and take the lead on their life direction at school outside of school and into work. It provides the opportunity for the young person to identify their values and make decisions based on them, learn from their school-based role models and mentors and develop a healthy self-image and self-esteem. All these key learnings play a significant role in reducing and mitigating the risks leading to youth crime.

Further, the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership Limited claims that, wellbeing is crucial to academic achievement, and wellbeing programs can support and accelerate students' learning ⁴. The institute also states that educators and school communities play a significant role in supporting and developing learner wellbeing ⁴.

A study published in PLOS ONE found that higher education levels lead to a higher level of eudaimonic well-being, hedonic well-being, positive affect, and reduced psychological distress, highlighting a non-monetary benefit of education ⁵. The Department of Education in Australia emphasizes the importance of student resilience, both emotionally and academically, in supporting the wellbeing of students ⁶.

The following factors contribute to student wellbeing:

- ✓ Participating in activities that are significant and meaningful to them.
- ✓ Possessing a sense of emotional control.
- ✓ Being regarded, cherished, and pushed to achieve success.
- ✓ Experiencing a sense of belonging in their community.
- ✓ Having a value and meaning in life ^{2 3}.



OMCG Research

Queensland Research into the effects of disaffiliating from a motorcycle gang shows 81% of members who formally disaffiliated had a Queensland criminal history. This offending included serious crimes. Only 15% of those disaffiliated members, however, have recorded offending after leaving the gang. The research demonstrates offending decreases significantly when people turn their back on gang life. Formally leaving the outlaw motorcycle gang is a step towards a turning point for an individual, their family and the community.

The Queensland Police Service has partnered with the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) to give these ex-members a voice. The research has been focussed on their personal journey into motorcycle gangs, reason for leaving and the impact of their association with the gang.

Over 50 ex-OMCG members have participated in the research, giving insight into the reality that gang life did not deliver what they were looking for. The stories are compelling and real, giving an unparalleled insight into the truth of gang membership. The research examines the consequences of gang membership, including the impact on peers, family, employment, security, and mental health. This research further explores the recruitment of gang members and the changing nature of OMCG in Australia. The joint research reports are available on the [AIC website](#).⁹

Sources

1. [Data suggests Queensland's crime rate decreasing despite reports of surging youth offences - ABC News](#)
2. [Wellbeing in Australian schools - AITSL](#)
3. [Student Wellbeing Guide for Schools - Brainstorm Productions](#)
4. [Student wellbeing really matters | ACC Blog - Australian Christian College](#)
5. [Wellbeing in Australian schools - AITSL](#)
6. [The influence of education on women's well-being: Evidence from Australia](#)
7. [Student resilience and wellbeing - Department of Education](#)
8. [Safer Communities Report 4 – IBFF November 2024](#)
9. [OMCG research | QPS \(police.qld.gov.au\)](#)