

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

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To: [Youth Justice Reform Select Committee; Sandy Bolton](#)
Subject: Submission From Chris Sanders and Jodi Lovely for the YJR
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Good Afternoon TO Whom It May Concern,

My name is Chris Sanders I am a Victim of Youth Crime where I was at our local shopping centre at [REDACTED].

We only called into the shops to pick up a hot chook from Woolworths and when we were in our car leaving the shopping centre there was 4 young teenagers.

standing in the middle of the road where the traffic enters and exits the carpark when I had driven past them slowly, I looked out the side mirror of the car and seen one of the youths punched and kick our car. My instant reaction was to stop and kindly ask why you punched and kick our car his response was that I was in his way I stated I don't see how when we are in a car, and you were crossing where there was no Pedestrian crossing. One of the youths was very vocal and started walking back to towards our car saying do you want me to do it again, so I got out of the car and walked around to the passenger side of the car and walked towards them saying you won't do anything of the kind, as I was walking towards him, he fell over after trying to throw punches at me. It was then that I felt a couple of kicks to my back which I was quite concerned.

about as it was only 6 weeks earlier I had back surgery to repair my spinal cord stimulator. As I kept walking towards the main youth who kicked and punched the car he kept trying to throw punches at me but kept falling over by this time i had already been kicked about 5 or 6 times in the back and then the older boy out of the two kicked me about nine times in the stomach I had enough of this violence and kept telling them to stop. The young of the two didn't have a chance to kick me anymore as I positioned myself in a way, I could see them. both at the same time as the older of the went for another kick I grabbed his leg and lifted it high enough to unbalance him and put him on his back in self-defence he then said you broke my back and I replied by saying I doubt it very much. I then started walking towards the shop entry near Subway and asked the people standing around watching if they could get security. only to be told by someone who works at Subway say that security finishes at 1800hrs which I found strange especially knowing that shops were still open and at least for public safety. as I was walking towards Woolworths, I heard someone yell out he has a knife he has a knife watchout as soon as I turned around, he had slashed the side of my leg and then my stomach. Already having injuries to both my legs and nerve damage in both legs from my Military Service my right leg had collapsed and gave way on me, and it was then that he had stabbed me from

behind in between my left arm and left shoulder blade. I tried to stand up, but I collapsed and all I could feel was something running down my back which I assumed was blood. Before I knew it

there were people trying to help me and tell me that the Ambulance and Police were coming I had gone into shock where my eyes were rolling back in my head from what I was told by my wife.

Jodi Lovely who seen me laying in a pool of blood and not responsive. I don't remember much after this happened except knowing someone had put pressure on the stab wound and others.

trying to keep me awake and alert. I was rushed to the PA Hospital under lights and sirens as

the bleeding wouldn't slow at all. My wife Jodi hasn't been the same since seeing me laying in a pool of blood of the shopping centre floor and not know whether her husband was going to survive. My father Ian Sanders picked Jodi up and brought her to the Hospital I don't remember much at all.

from that night and I spent four days in at the PA Hospital. On the 16th of December I was discharged from the hospital after having x rays to make sure I was good to go home and have no issues with the stab wound. On the 17th of December 2023 I had to go to Wynnum Police station to give my statement of the events that happed that day my wife Jodi spoke to the police that night and then had a phone call the next morning to go to the Police station to make a statement on what had happened that night. On Wednesday the 20th of December 2023 My wife Jodi had to take me back to the PA Hospital for a check up on my wounds as the injuries I sustained from this attack were sever. So, I had to have more X rays and then see the doctor when looking at the computer and could only see one of my lungs.

I was a bit concerned and the doctor said we will get to that. I was struggling to breath when walking going up stairs and even to sleep, it was then the doctor told me I had to be admitted back into hospital.

as I had a lot of fluid on my lung. I had to have a drain placed into my lung by a doctor with CT guided needle whilst I was awake. I was great fully released from hospital on Christmas Eve after I had 1.8ltrs of blood drained from my lung. After all the Christmas was over, I was talking to Ben Cannon from Voice for Victims and was glad to be able to talk to him about this trauma I was going through he advised me to get in touch with Victims Assist so I did I spoke to someone from there and was forwarded an email with paperwork to fill out for claims and assistance well I did all that and knowing the festive season maybe nothing.

would happen till early January after the Christmas Season. Well, I was wrong there because as time passed on and I got to speak to other people that reached out to myself and Jodi from Voice for Victims who were fantastic to talk to and even asked us along to a coffee with a cop and also Di Farmer the MP for Bulimba. Weeks were going by, and I made several calls to Victims Assist to see how my paperwork was progressing.

with them and still no reply. Then I got talking to Lyndy from Voice for Victims and she had informed me that she had been talking to Di Farmer regarding my situation and then she kept following it up for me as my PTSD from this trauma was really getting hold of me. We then went into Parliament House for YJF and hoping to have an open mic session to speak about our dealings with youth crime but unfortunately that never took place.

however, I did get to speak with Sandy Bolton face to face but not for long as the session was about to start again. At the end of that day my wife Jodi Myself and my very concerned Mother in-law were getting ready to leave and take Russell Field and another Victim Natalie home with us. I asked Lyndy for a minute of her time before we left and advised her that I had received an email from victims assist saying that I will receive \$9000 into my bank account with in 7 days of the email she was as shocked as I was. Two days later I had a phone call from a private number advising me of this again also and the young lady on the phone said it's a payment of support.

from the government for what I have had to go through. Please don't get me wrong I am grateful for that from the Government, but it is also a real kick in the pants to think that what I have gone through and still have and will be.

going through for the rest of my life looking over my shoulder wondering who the next teen or person is that's going to stab me or my family or someone else for that matter and so it was nearly every day the tv or radio news is.

telling us about stabbings youth crime stealing cars bashing people and the list can go on and on and on. People keep saying why aren't the Police doing their job when infect they are by arresting these young people having.

them charged then to go before a court to then get either a slap on the wrist or a good behaviour bond and as soon as they are back out on the streets, they are at it again committing crimes stabbing people stealing cars.

breaking into homes while people are asleep and knowing that they will get away with it yet again. So, where and what can be done about this is the BIG question cause us the victims yes are granted a special payment of \$9000.

for what we have had to go through but then we still have to live a life of trauma still sleepless nights and our partners and families are also the ones suffering from what we have had to go through and also deal with but aren't

entitled to much at all which is wrong and as we all know the cost of living is insane. Since I was stabbed my wife Jodi Lovely has had to give up her new job which was a really good paying job finally but to look after and take care

of me as I have chronic panic attacks anxiety attacks don't want to leave the house and the biggest killer for us is that we have also had to sell Jodi's car which she has worked really really hard for just for us to try and survive

financially. Now we can't go and seek compensation from the youths that are committing these crimes to us because they have nothing anyway and I reckon that we really couldn't seek compensation from their parents either.

and I was stabbed in a shopping centre and can't even claim compensation through their public liability or let alone them even contacting us victims to ask how we are or is there anything we can do no we are pretty much left.

Idling and sort it out all for ourselves. Now these youths need to start having a real punishment for the crimes they are committing cause what they are getting for the crimes they are doing doesn't make them think twice before.

committing offences again and again but yet the public are the ones paying the big price here to protect our families our homes our property and so much more. To most people \$9000 is nothing really when you think about the

trauma and ongoing medical bills and in the event of someone being killed and the family losing a loved family member is a lifelong sentence more than what these youths are getting for their crimes. Now my injuries consisted of.

a severed artery a pierced and collapsed lung and the knife blade missing my heart by 1.5cm and finding out from the police that the knife used was a knuckle duster with a half inch wide blade and I was also told how lucky I was.

and because of my size and defence skills is what saved me but only just because I was nearly not here to be with my family and celebrate all of our special events, I still continue to have sleepless nights sometimes for two days straight.

Since that night of being stabbed and not knowing of the court dates these two young youths had and not be able to sit in on the court hearings because they are still classed as children well if they can do serious crimes like these

stealing cars break and enter to houses and cars also stabbing people sometimes fatal stabbings then they should be dealt with like adults no matter what even seeing on tv the other week

where one of the parents was on

A Current Affair apologising. on live tv for his son's youth crimes and begging for him to be locked up. We could sit here all day and all night saying this should be done that should be done and actually get something happening to sort the youth crime out once and for all. Thank you for taking the time to read this email and if there is anything else we have the opportunity to do or say I'm sure all of us victims would love to stand Infront of these youths at their court appearances I know that we would that`s for sure.

Kind Regards

Chris Sanders

