



Minister for Children and Youth Justice
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

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Your reference: A657395
Our reference: CYJMA 01015-2021

24 MAR 2021

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
ClerksOffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to petition 3478-21 tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 23 February 2021, requesting a review of Queensland legislation in relation to the juvenile justice system and the actions of juvenile offenders.

Firstly, I would like to assure the residents of 'The Village Redcliffe' Retirement Village that community safety continues to be a top priority for the Queensland Government. That is why we have invested record funding of over half a billion dollars since 2017 to reduce youth crime.

The Working Together Changing the Story: Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023 (the Strategy) provides a holistic framework for preventing and responding to youth crime. The Strategy includes a range of responses related to early intervention that supports children and families before they become involved in offending; and to hold young people who offend accountable. This includes providing them with support and guidance to change their behaviours and attitudes. The evidence tells us this holistic response is the best way to reduce youth crime and keep communities safe.

The Strategy is proving to be effective for most young offenders, with the number of young people committing offences in Queensland decreasing by 30 per cent since 2010. However, there remains a small group of young people who continue to engage in persistent and serious repeat offending, presenting a significant risk to the communities in which they live.

In March 2020, the Queensland Government announced a five-point plan to address this small group of repeat offenders. This included funding for 10 community-led crime committees across the state, a police blitz on bail and the introduction of 'co-responder' teams comprising youth justice workers and police officers, who are available 24/7 to engage with young people on the streets and support them to reduce their offending behaviour.

On 9 February 2021, the Premier announced additional reforms to further protect the community from serious recidivist offenders. To implement this commitment, On 25 February 2021, the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 was introduced into Parliament. The Bill addresses the offending behaviours of this target group, with a focus on strengthening the youth justice bail framework.

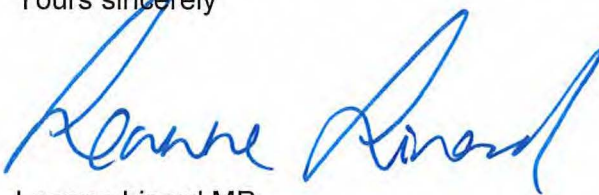
The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee will consider the Bill and report back to Parliament on its views. Details of the committee process, including opportunities to participate, can be viewed at www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/LASC.

Please be assured that petitioners' concerns have been taken very seriously. We are committed to the ongoing review of youth justice policies and programs to ensure they are directed at keeping communities safe and holding young people to account for their offending behaviour.

Should you require any further information or assistance in relation to this matter, please contact Dr Lisa Pollard, Senior Executive Director, Strategy and Legislation, Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs on 3097 8618.

Thank you for taking the time to make me aware of your concerns.

Yours sincerely



Leanne Linard MP
**Minister for Children and Youth Justice and
Minister for Multicultural Affairs**