



# Report on Youth Justice

## Government response to recommendations

## Queensland Government Response to Report on Youth Justice

In early 2018 eminent Queenslander, Mr Bob Atkinson AO APM, former Queensland Police Commissioner and then Commissioner on the National Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, was appointed to act as a special advisor to the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, on matters relating to youth justice.

Mr Atkinson was requested to provide advice to the Minister about progress of the government's (transition of 17 year old) youth justice reforms and next steps and other measures to reduce recidivism.

Mr Atkinson engaged broadly and reviewed a wide range of evidence. His *Report on Youth Justice* was provided to the Minister on 15 June 2018.

It was publicly released in July 2018, with the Government committing to consult on his recommendations and to develop a comprehensive long-term Youth Justice Strategy.

This document outlines the response of the Queensland Government against each of the 77 recommendations made in Mr Atkinson's Report.

The Youth Justice Strategy, released in conjunction with this response, provides a high-level framework for change and engagement, to be followed by a detailed Action Plan in 2019.

The Strategy and Action plan will advance the Government's response to the Atkinson Report outlined as follows:

No.	Recommendation	Queensland Government response
1	That the Four Pillars model be adopted as the Government's Youth Justice Policy: 1) Intervene early; 2) Keep children out of court; 3) Keep children out of custody; 4) Reduce reoffending.	<b>Accept</b> The four pillars were used to guide the consultation process and are reflected in the draft Youth Justice Strategy.
2	That a Youth Justice strategy include collaborative crime prevention and early intervention initiatives in high-risk communities.	<b>Accept</b> The Youth Justice Strategy includes priorities and initiatives that address collaborative crime prevention and early intervention.
3	That a systematic response be developed for cases where indicators identify a need for early intervention	<b>Accept</b> The Youth Justice Strategy includes priorities and initiatives that address systematic responses for children in need of early intervention.
4	That schools become focal points for early intervention for children in need of targeted support, with key agencies working collaboratively to proactively identify, assess and work	<b>Accept in principle</b> Schools work with other agencies and community organisations to enable early intervention and support for school aged children and their families.

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	with families, communities and non-government	
5	That the Government consider appropriate alcohol and drug assessment, and interventions for families and children as part of early intervention.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The Action Plan will consider options to improve responses to alcohol and other drugs for families and children.</p>
6	That the Government consider adopting a collaborative model between the Department of Education, Department of Child Safety Youth and Women, and the Childrens Court, based on the Victorian Education Justice Initiative (EJI).	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>A trial program based on the Victorian model is being implemented in Brisbane and Townsville, led by the Department of Education.</p>
7	That consideration be given to using the Youth Engagement Charter as a platform for further work in education and employment pathways when engaging with high-risk children involved in the youth justice system.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The Youth Engagement Alliance provides a whole of government commitment to youth engagement in education. The Department of Education is undertaking ongoing and targeted work to keep children engaged in education, including children involved in the youth justice system. The Youth Justice Strategy includes initiatives to continue to strengthen re-engagement in schooling and improve pathways to training and employment.</p>
8	That targeted resourcing be provided for schools with a high occurrence of children with problem behaviours so that teachers can retain their focus on education while specialist behaviour management staff can focus on those aspects.	<p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p>Schools work with other agencies and community organisations to enable early intervention and support for school aged children and their families. School resourcing models already provide additional funding to schools with student cohorts that have low socioeconomic backgrounds, and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Any additional resources to deliver further specialised support will be further considered.</p>
9	That alternative and flexible schooling options and pathways into them are available for children in the youth justice system and those at high risk	<p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes initiatives to continue to strengthen re-engagement in schooling and improve pathways to training and employment for</p>

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	of mainstream school disengagement.	children in the youth justice system. Mainstream schooling provides the best outcomes for most students. Alternative and flexible education options are appropriate where a young person cannot thrive in a mainstream school environment.
10	That supported transition back to school following a period in detention is delivered in partnership between the Department of Education, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and local community organisations.	<b>Accept in principle</b> The Youth Justice Strategy includes initiatives to strengthen school engagement in and post detention.
11	That the importance of vocational training, job readiness and employment is recognised and reflected in responses to criminal offending, in particular for older children who are involved in the criminal justice system.	<b>Accept</b> Every Queensland state school student is supported to participate in individually relevant career planning, job readiness and vocational training while completing their schooling. This also applies to young people involved in the youth justice system. In addition, targeted programs for young people involved with the justice system embed vocational training in their design. The Transition to Success program is focused on vocational training, job readiness and support to obtain employment. Connection to education, training and employment are key priorities of the Youth Justice Strategy.
12	That the capacity to conduct full physical health, mental health, disability and educational assessments of children at all levels of the youth justice system, together with referral to related treatment and programs be progressed to the greatest extent possible.	<b>Accept</b> The Youth Justice Strategy includes initiatives to increase the capacity for comprehensive health, mental health and disability assessments and to improve referral pathways.
13	That training in the impact of trauma on neurological development, and the risk of impairment be adopted for key staff working in the youth justice system, notably frontline police,	<b>Accept in principle</b> The Youth Justice Strategy includes initiatives for training in trauma-informed practice. This is already provided in the youth justice system, child protection,

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	teachers, judiciary and legal practitioners, as well as Youth Justice staff and non-government service providers.	family support, education, health, mental health and other sectors.
14	That the Government consider extending drug diversion to drugs other than cannabis for minor drug offences committed by children.	<b>Accept in principle</b> The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative which will explore ways to extend drug diversion to drugs other than cannabis for minor drug offences committed by children.
15	That the Government consider a range of evidence-based treatment options for children in the youth justice system with substance abuse issues.	<b>Accept</b> The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative which will explore ways to facilitate better access to evidence-based treatment options for children in the youth justice system with substance abuse issues.
16	That members of the Queensland Police Service be supported in exercising discretion not to prosecute and be provided with as wide a range of options as possible in that regard.	<b>Accept</b> The Queensland Police Service is providing police officers with additional training in use of existing diversion options. The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative that will explore additional options.
17	That pathways for police to refer to non- government service providers for the purposes of diversion be enhanced.	<b>Accept in Principle</b> The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative that will explore ways to enhance police referrals.
18	That the Government support a trial of a 'Protected Admissions' and enhanced diversions scheme in a suitable location, which, if successful, could be progressively introduced in other locations across the State.	<b>Accept in principle</b> The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to explore ways to remove barriers to use existing diversion options, including but not limited to consideration of a Protected Admissions scheme.
19	That the Government maintain the existing Supervised Bail Accommodation services in Townsville, Logan and Carbrook and consider extending the referral pathways to include: a) children leaving detention; b) children on bail and ordered by the court to reside as a condition of bail; c) children subject to police bail; d) children on	<b>Accept in principle</b> DCSYW has been working with Supervised Community Accommodation providers through the trial to adopt a more flexible service model with expanded referral pathways. An evaluation of the existing services, due to be completed by early 2019, will inform consideration of future options.

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	supervised orders who have nowhere suitable to live.	
20	That a referral pathway similar to the Bail Assistance Line (BAL) in NSW be considered.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>A Queensland Legal Advice phone line currently provides advice to young people by a police referral, to their families, to the LAQ duty lawyer/solicitor over the phone. Additional Bail Support and Legal Advocacy services are also being established, commencing across Queensland in early 2019. The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative that will further consider the NSW BAL model.</p>
21	That child criminal matters be returned to court regularly to test readiness to proceed and, where a child is in custody, whether bail is appropriate.	<p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p>Young people are being assisted to have bail merit reviewed. The Childrens Court Committee is addressing the issue of readiness to proceed. Youth Justice is recruiting additional staff to liaise with prosecutors and legal representatives to minimise delays. Enhanced legal advocacy services are being established, commencing in early 2019.</p>
22	That further measures be put in place to ensure bail conditions do not place unrealistic expectations on children in light of their circumstances, whilst ensuring community safety.	<p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p>Additional Bail Support and Legal Advocacy services are being established, commencing in early 2019. These services will support young people to obtain bail with suitable conditions, and to comply with bail conditions. Options for providing judicial officers making bail decisions with further information relevant to setting appropriate bail conditions will be considered.</p>
23	That, to the greatest extent possible, bail support services are available to keep children in the community, instead of remanded in custody.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>Additional Bail Support and Legal Advocacy services are being established, commencing in early 2019.</p>
24	That goals be set to progressively reduce the proportion of children on remand in custody, with annual targets and key milestones.	<p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy outlines how progress and impact will be assessed. Goals, targets and milestones will be included in the Monitoring and Evaluation</p>

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		Framework as part of the forthcoming Action Plan.
25	That measures be put in place to ensure all children on remand in custody have access to rehabilitative programs to address the criminogenic factors relating to their offending including, where indicated, continuation of the program on release from custody.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>Young people on remand have access to similar programs and services as sentenced young people, with case workers available to deliver programs that focus on problem behaviour rather than the alleged offence.</p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative that will consider how to increase the range of programs and services available to young people under community supervision, and provide continuity on release from custody.</p>
26	That restorative justice conferencing continue to be promoted for use in a wide range of child offending matters.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The Palaszczuk Government has re-established Restorative Justice Conferencing, as highlighted in the Youth Justice Strategy. This will continue to be promoted for use in a wide range of matters.</p>
27	That Youth Justice staff, police and courts are supported with the requisite knowledge, skills, training and resources to facilitate referral of a wide range of offences to restorative justice conferencing.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>All Youth Justice case workers are trained in restorative justice processes and practice. Youth Justice provides referring stakeholders with knowledge, skills, training and resources at the QPS Academy, through local meetings and information sessions with police and other stakeholders, liaison at court, and brochures for public and agency use.</p>
28	That the Government consider adopting other forms of restorative justice for application in Queensland, including Family Group Conferencing and Family-Led Decision- Making, with specific consideration of their relevance and suitability to deal more effectively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander children who commit offences.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative that will give consideration to alternative forms of restorative justice, including Family Group meetings.</p>

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29	That the capacity for mental health and disability assessments to assist the courts be enlarged to the greatest extent possible, including availability and timeliness.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>Queensland Health has enhanced the capacity of Child and Youth Mental Health Court Liaison Services to undertake specialist mental health, fitness for trial and soundness of mind assessments of children and adolescents in the north and west of Queensland.</p>
30	That the Government consider legislation and facilities to make available to the courts, therapeutic and forensic orders for children with mental health, substance use or disability issues related to their criminal offending.	<p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to review the <i>Youth Justice Act</i>. This will be considered in the review.</p>
31	That the range and content of current court orders and sentence options under the <i>Youth Justice Act 1992</i> be reviewed and consideration be given to a wider range of options being available for children's courts.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to review the <i>Youth Justice Act</i>. This will be considered in the review.</p>
32	That the Government adopt a goal of reducing by half the number of children entering detention for the first time (516 in 2016-2017), by 2019-2020.	<p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy outlines how progress and impact will be assessed. Goals, targets and milestones will be included in the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework as part of the forthcoming Action Plan.</p>
33	Noting the negative consequences of detention, that detention be used for serious offenders where public safety is a factor.	<p><b>For further consideration</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to review the <i>Youth Justice Act</i>. The most appropriate use of detention will be considered during the review.</p>
34	That consideration be given for more use of detention options in alternative community settings for example community detention, leave of absence, community service, and for court-ordered periods at on-country residential programs, remand fostering and professional foster care.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to review the <i>Youth Justice Act</i>. Alternatives to detention and alternative forms of detention will be further considered during the review and Action Plan process.</p>
35	Should the construction of additional detention centre infrastructure be	<p><b>Accept</b></p>



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	required, that consideration be given to designing facilities that are different from the current large-scale institutions. They should ideally be small in size, built in multiple locations across Queensland and potentially specialised and therapeutic in focus, to meet the circumstances of different cohorts of children, for example girls, serious and high-risk offenders, or offenders with challenging behaviours.	Future infrastructure planning will include consideration of alternative models.
36	That flexibility with detention and remand orders be adopted so that children can spend time outside of a detention centre during periods of custody to maintain positive connections to home and country and to support their transition and reintegration back into the community.	<p><b>For further consideration</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to review the <i>Youth Justice Act</i>. Flexibility of detention and remand orders will be considered during legislative review.</p>
37	That the Government examine the use of electronic monitoring together with community or home detention as an alternative to detention in a youth detention centre.	<p><b>For further consideration</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to review the <i>Youth Justice Act</i>. Evidence for electronic monitoring, community and home detention for children is equivocal and will be considered during legislative review.</p>
38	That the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women continue to progress a long-term comprehensive workforce plan that embraces professionalisation and best practice for youth detention centre staff.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>A DCSYW workforce taskforce is currently addressing workforce planning and development for youth justice staff. Related recommendations of the <i>Independent Review of Youth Detention</i> are being implemented. The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to develop a <i>Youth Justice Practice Framework</i>.</p>
39	That the Government consider establishing a standalone Childrens Court for all youth justice and child protection matters based on the model that currently exists in New South Wales.	<p><b>For further consideration</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to further consider options to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of courts considering matters relating to children where feasible. Options including</p>

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		but not limited to a standalone Childrens Court will be considered.
40	Allowing for resource implications, that more full-time Childrens Court magistrates be appointed over time to work exclusively in the Childrens Court jurisdiction.	<p><b>For further consideration</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to further consider options to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of courts considering matters relating to children where feasible.</p>
41	That the President of the Childrens Court be able to perform that role and provide the associated leadership and management in a full-time capacity.	<p><b>For further consideration</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to further consider options to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of courts considering matters relating to children where feasible.</p>
42	In recognition of the benefits of greater specialisation, that consideration be given to extending the summary jurisdiction in the Childrens Court to enable specialist children's magistrates to deal with more serious offences.	<p><b>For further consideration</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to further consider options to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of courts considering matters relating to children where feasible.</p>
43	That the Government consider stand-alone child criminal justice legislation that potentially incorporates bail and police powers and responsibilities relating to a child. That consideration also be given to including in the stand-alone children's criminal legislation, provisions relating to court proceedings for children, the role and functions of the Childrens Court and the role of key agencies in the youth justice system.	<p><b>For further consideration</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to review the <i>Youth Justice Act</i>. This will have regard to related legislation.</p>
44	If the Four Pillars are adopted as Government policy that consideration be given to adopting them as principles and objectives in legislation that impacts on preventing and responding to youth offending. This potentially includes the current Youth Justice Act 1992, the Bail Act 1980, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, as well as legislation governing courts, child	<p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to review the <i>Youth Justice Act</i>. Consideration will be given to including the principles of the Youth Justice Strategy in legislation.</p>

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	safety, education, health, housing, and other service provision.	
45	That lawyers who practice in the children's criminal jurisdiction undertake specialist training and accreditation, potentially developed and delivered jointly by LAQ and ATSILS.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>Accreditation of lawyers engaged by LAQ as preferred suppliers is currently being undertaken by Legal Aid Queensland through the provision of additional government funds.</p>
46	<p>If the Four Pillars are adopted as Government policy, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the Legal Aid funding model for children's criminal matters be reviewed to examine if it can better support early finalisation of matters and non-court outcomes for children who come into contact with the criminal justice system;</li> <li>b) local area protocols be established between QPS, ATSILS, LAQ and Youth Justice with a view to diverting more children from court, custody and the criminal justice system;</li> <li>c) LAQ and ATSILS collaborate on implementing the four pillars in their criminal justice practices.</li> </ul>	<p><b>For further consideration</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to further consider options to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of youth justice processes where feasible, including actions that better support early finalisation of matters.</p> <p>Additional Bail Support and Legal Advocacy services are being established, commencing in early 2019.</p>
47	That the Government consider implementing collaborative approaches similar to Townsville Stronger Communities Action Group (TSCAG) in other towns and communities experiencing child offending and community concern.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to implement further collaborative approaches in other places similar to the Townsville Stronger Communities initiative.</p>
48	That the Government consider adopting place-based approaches that address both the causes of offending as well as responses to offending in communities with high levels of concern about youth offending. Queensland towns and	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>A range of place-based collaborative responses to addressing the causes of offending, as well as responses to offending in communities with high levels of concern about youth reoffending, are being implemented, such as Logan Together,</p>

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	communities with high levels of concern about youth offending.	Cairns Safer Streets, More4Mackay and Townsville Stronger Communities. The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to implement further collaborative place-based approaches in other places.
49	That the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women in conjunction with other key agencies examine ways to maximise sharing information about children in the youth justice system	<b>Accept</b> The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to improve information sharing across key agencies, to prevent and respond to youth offending. The review of the <i>Youth Justice Act</i> will consider legislative barriers to information sharing, similar to recent reforms to the <i>Child Protection Act</i> .
50	That systems for identifying effective referral services are enhanced to the greatest extent possible to ensure these services are known and available to key agency staff in the locations in which they work.	<b>Accept</b> The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to enhance the availability and awareness of, and systems for referrals.
51	That referral pathways are optimised for police, Youth Justice, courts and relevant Government agencies to facilitate referrals of children to non-government and other support services.	<b>Accept</b> The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to enhance the availability and awareness of, and systems for referrals.
52	That the Government trial key agency and government-funded after-hours service provision in conjunction with police in locations where high levels of need is identified.	<b>For further consideration</b> Additional Bail Support and Legal Advocacy services are being established, commencing in early 2019, including after-hours services in priority locations. Further consideration will be given to requirements for additional after-hours service provision.
53	That the Government consider re-allocating funding to after-hours services where high levels of need are identified.	<b>For further consideration</b> Additional Bail Support and Legal Advocacy services are being established, commencing in early 2019, including after-hours services in priority locations. The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to consider further requirements for additional after-hours service provision.
54	That the necessary industrial and contractual arrangements be investigated to enable and support	<b>For further consideration</b>

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	after-hours service provision by key Government agencies and NGOs.	Additional Bail Support and Legal Advocacy services are being established, commencing in early 2019, including after-hours services in priority locations. The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to consider further requirements for additional after-hours service provision. As required, appropriate industrial and contractual arrangements will be negotiated and applied.
55	That after-hours youth facilities modelled on 'The Lighthouse' in Townsville be considered for other high-risk youth offending locations in Queensland where there are limited safe, suitable activities and locations for teenagers at night time.	<p><b>For further consideration</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to consider further requirements for additional after-hours service provision That will include consideration of evaluation findings related to 'The Lighthouse in Townsville, and its applicability in other locations.</p>
56	That policies, procedures and practices of key agencies be enhanced to support discussions between police, relevant key agencies and NGOs to progress the intent of the four pillars.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes initiatives that strengthen collaboration and partnerships, and will align practices, across agencies and sectors, consistent with the four pillars.</p>
57	That the Government consider appointing Community Champions in locations in Queensland where there are high levels of community concern about youth offending.	<p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes initiatives that strengthen collaboration and partnerships across agencies and sectors, and advance further place-based initiatives. This will include consideration of appointing further Community Champions.</p>
58	That consideration be given (in partnerships, including with the Departments of Transport and Main Roads, the Motor Accident Insurance Commission, and the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training) to a program for 16-17 year olds in the youth justice system that would assist in obtaining a driver's license and potential employment in a	<p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p>The Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) offers a number of programs, exemptions and assistance to support disadvantaged young people in the driver licencing system, including the Queensland Learner Driver Mentor Program (led by DTMR with the Motor Accident Insurance Commission contributing funding). This program, which takes referrals from Youth Justice, is</p>

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	motor vehicle or transport-related field.	available to assist pre-learner drivers who do not have access to a suitable vehicle or supervisor, to obtain their learner licence and learn to drive. The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative to explore further ways to reduce barriers, such as licencing, and enhance employment opportunities for young people in youth justice, including in the motor vehicle or transport related fields. This will involve DCSYW, DTMR and DESBT.
59	That Government continue to support the development and use of technological solutions to prevent car theft.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The development of technology solutions to deliver safe remote vehicle immobilisation were considered at the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management in October 2018. Council Members agreed to establish a national working group to explore issues related to police use of remote engine immobilisers or related technologies as a means of reducing the risks to the public and police from vehicle related crime.</p> <p>It should be noted that regulation of this technology is driven by manufacturers, the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI) and the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC).</p>
60	That Government seek to put the use of technological solutions to prevent car theft on a national agenda.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The development of technology solutions to deliver safe remote vehicle immobilisation was considered at the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management in October 2018. Council Members agreed to establish a national working group to explore issues related to police use of remote engine immobilisers or related technologies as a means of reducing the risks to the public and police from vehicle related crime.</p> <p>It should be noted that regulation of this technology is driven by manufacturers, the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI) and the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC).</p>

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61	That an oversight body of key agencies continue to lead a whole of government youth justice strategy.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The responsible Minister will report to relevant Ministerial forums on progress and impacts of the Youth Justice Strategy. A senior executive cross-agency group will be tasked with leading implementation of the Youth Justice Strategy.</p>
62	That Government consider strengthening regional departmental leadership and accountability for key agencies concerned with youth justice. This could potentially include: Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women (DCSYW), Queensland Police Service (QPS), Department of Housing and Public Works (DHPW), Department of Education (DoE), Queensland Health (QH), Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (DCSS) and Department of Justice and Attorney- General (DJAG).	<p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes an initiative for Regional Child, Youth and Family Committees to be closely engaged in driving local and regional implementation.</p> <p>In addition, senior representatives of relevant government agencies participate in the Youth Engagement Alliance (formed in February 2017), along with non-state schooling and TAFE Queensland, to supports engagement in education for Queensland's most vulnerable young people (see <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au/youthengagementalliance">www.qld.gov.au/youthengagementalliance</a>).</p>
63	As part of a youth justice strategy, that the Government adopt goals related to key priorities, including the amount and frequency of representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the youth justice system, educational engagement of children in the youth justice system, the proportion of children in detention who are remanded in custody, and recidivism.	<p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy adopts the key priorities as proposed, and outlines how progress and impact will be assessed.</p>
64	That success of a reformed and integrated youth justice system be measured using a combination of different measures of offending and reoffending and other outcomes concerning the key factors impacting on offending, such as improvements in education, mental health and family functioning, as well as factors that are important to communities, such as feeling safe and secure, less frequent	<p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy outlines how progress and impact will be assessed. Goals, targets and milestones will be included in the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework as part of the forthcoming Action Plan. This will include measures that address prevention and early intervention, as well as measures focused on the criminal justice system.</p>

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	offending, less harmful offending, and community confidence.	
65	That differential harm measures, such as the crime harm index and the offending magnitude measure, are tested and applied to assist police, courts, and youth justice service providers to make better decisions about what is working to reduce youth offending and reoffending.	<p><b>For further consideration</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy outlines how progress and impact will be assessed. Goals, targets and milestones will be included in the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework as part of the forthcoming Action Plan. Differential harm measures will be considered for inclusion.</p>
66	That the Government adopt a coordinated Statewide media strategy to promote and support the Four Pillars policy position.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>Implementation of the Youth Justice Strategy will be supported by community engagement and information initiatives.</p>
67	That the Government: a) develop, support and contribute to youth justice and youth crime prevention research agendas for Queensland and Australia and that these align with strategic priorities and guide further research conducted by academics and other external researchers; b) explore opportunities for partnering with Universities; c) develop research and evaluation capability of Government staff and a scholarship program for those who wish to advance the evidence base alongside developing their own professional knowledge and skills; d) explore opportunities for youth-justice- specific conferences; e) publish research and evaluation findings in a variety of formats suitable for different audiences.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy outlines how progress and impact will be assessed, and includes a commitment to continue to build and use evidence from research, data and evaluations. Specifically,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A DCSYW Research Agenda is being developed, drawing from academic research, university groups and research units across Australia. DCSYW is an active member of the <i>Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrator's group</i> and the <i>Government Statistician's Office Crime Statistics and Research Committee</i>.</li> <li>b) DCSYW is currently partnering with university researchers on 26 projects, and will continue to extensively partner with university research bodies.</li> <li>c) DCSYW has established a capacity building seminar series and a journal club to discuss research and evaluations, and is exploring the potential for research scholarships</li> <li>d) A DCSYW research conference will be held in 2019 with youth justice as a key focus, and opportunities for specific youth justice conferences are being explored</li> <li>e) A research management framework is being developed, and will include</li> </ul>



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		reporting findings appropriate for different target audiences
68	That the Government support in principle raising the MACR to 12 years subject to: a) national agreement and implementation by State and Territory governments; b) a comprehensive impact analysis; c) establishment of needs based programs and diversions for 8-11 year old children engaged in offending behaviour.	<p><b>For further consideration</b></p> <p>The Queensland Government will consider this further pending any recommendations that are made in relation to MACR which arise from consideration of this issue at a national level.</p>
69	That the Government advocate for consideration of raising the MACR to 12 years as part of a national agenda for all states and territories for implementation as a uniform approach.	<p><b>For further consideration</b></p> <p>The Queensland will consider this further pending any recommendations that are made in relation to MACR which arise from consideration of this issue at a national level.</p>
70	In the interim, that the Government consider legislating so that 10-11 year olds should not be remanded in custody or sentenced to detention except for a very serious offence.	<p><b>For further consideration</b></p> <p>The Queensland Government will consider this further pending any recommendations that are made in relation to MACR which arise from consideration of this issue at a national level.</p>
71	That the Government set long-term goals for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to be no more highly represented than non-Indigenous children in the criminal justice system, the priority being that the rate of incarceration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children be no higher than that of non-Indigenous children.	<p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes a priority to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the youth justice system. Goals, targets and milestones will be included in the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework as part of the forthcoming Action Plan. This process will be informed by the outcome of COAG discussions about proposed Closing the Gap justice targets.</p>
72	That the Government set annual targets for progress towards long-term goals for reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children at multiple points in the criminal justice system, including: a) children charged with offences; b) children under community-based supervision; c)	<p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes a priority to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the youth justice system. Goals, targets and milestones will be included in the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework as part of the forthcoming Action Plan.</p>

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	children remanded in custody, and d) children subject to detention.	This process will be informed by the outcome of COAG discussions about proposed Closing the Gap justice targets.
73	That the Government consider a program of community consultation in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities experiencing high levels of concern about youth offending to encourage local solutions to youth offending.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes a priority to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the youth justice system. Consultation and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to ensure that service responses are culturally safe and promote community ownership are key elements of the Strategy. This will align with implementation of the Government's response to the report of the Queensland Productivity Commission.</p>
74	That DCSYW and other criminal justice agencies set targets for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation and report annually against these targets.	<p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy includes a priority to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the youth justice system. Goals, targets and milestones will be included in the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework as part of the forthcoming Action Plan. This process will be informed by the outcome of COAG discussions about proposed Closing the Gap justice targets. DCSYW and other agencies will continue to report annually on over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the youth justice system.</p>
75	That staff of key agencies who engage with child offenders undertake cultural competency training and development.	<p><b>Accept</b></p> <p>The Queensland Government Reconciliation Action Plan requires departments to increase knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, history and achievements. Agencies are actioning commitments to enhance cultural capability training and development.</p>
76	That the Queensland Government endeavour to have youth offending	<p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p>The Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators provides national</p>

No.	Recommendation	Queensland Government response
	put on a national agenda, preferably under the COAG regime.	coordination (also including NZ) for solutions to youth offending. Targets to reduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander over-representation in the criminal justice system are being considered under the Closing the Gap program. Queensland supports this proposal.
77	That consideration be given to putting the issue of the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the criminal justice system on a national level to develop an effective, nationally agreed bipartisan strategy with a set of nationally agreed goals.	<b>Accept</b> Targets to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the criminal justice system are being considered under the Closing the Gap program. Queensland supports this proposal.