



Telephone:  
Reference:



Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Via email: 

Dear Committee Secretariat,

The Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the *Youth Justice (Monitoring Devices) Amendment Bill 2025*.

Whilst I am supportive of the extension of the electronic monitoring trial for youth offenders for a further year, and the expansion of indictable offences involved, I believe this must be part of a broader, more comprehensive strategy for reforming the youth justice system. I have previously and continuously called for the same reforms across numerous submissions to Queensland parliament.

Most recently, my submission to the the *Making Queensland Safer* consultation,<sup>1</sup> dated 11 December 2024, called for the re-prioritisation of rehabilitative practices. Restorative justice approaches which foster empathy and responsible healing for victims of crime have higher rates of rehabilitation and meaningful behaviour change. Punitive sentencing often fails to address the root causes of criminal behaviour; children need not only structure to support them to understand the consequences of their actions, but also supportive, age-appropriate interventions to change behaviour and increase community safety.

To reduce recidivism and improve long-term outcomes for young people, it is essential to address the root causes of offending. A reduction in youth crime requires a holistic approach focused on early intervention and on addressing the underlying factors driving criminal behaviour, such as family dysfunction, trauma, mental health issues, substance abuse, and socio-economic disadvantage.<sup>2</sup> Addressing these factors requires a whole-of-government response, incorporating child safety, education, health, and youth justice sectors, as well as employment and local government endeavours like sport and recreation.

<sup>1</sup> Queensland Family and Child Commission (2024). *Making Queensland Safer Bill – submission*. Making Queensland Safer Bill 2024 0.pdf

<sup>2</sup> Queensland Family and Child Commission (2024). *Inquiry into Australia's youth justice and incarceration system*. <https://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-10/QFCC%20Submission%20-%20Youth%20Justice%20and%20Incarceration%20-%20Federal%20-%20Oct%202024.pdf>



Electronic monitoring has potential as a valuable tool for supervision of young offenders who have progressed through the judicial process, but the evidence base is currently limited. As such, I support the extension of the trial period as an opportunity to gain further data regarding the efficacy of electronic monitoring for young offenders.

I stress the importance of designing and implementing robust and comprehensive evaluation mechanisms to adequately assess the value of this approach in both achieving improved community safety and promoting sustainable behaviour change for young people who commit crime. This data will provide an evidence-base upon which to measure the effectiveness of such monitoring for compliance and supervision, and to understand its place within the broader youth justice system.

There continues to be the need for an overwhelming shift in Queensland's youth detention approach and the prioritisation of early intervention, diversion, and supportive systems. Rehabilitation, family support, and community reintegration should be the core principles of such an approach.<sup>3</sup> Electronic monitoring should be viewed as one tool within a larger framework that supports youth reintegration and helps reduce recidivism.

The trial of electronic monitoring for young offenders must consider the impacts of stigma for individuals returning to the community who are subject to monitoring, and the impacts on their ability to engage meaningfully with their community. Without addressing the complex issues that contribute to youth crime, such as trauma and lack of social support, electronic monitoring alone will not reduce crime.

The QFCC's *Exiting Youth Detention* report<sup>4</sup> emphasises the need for evidence-based practices to navigate these complexities. Feedback from young people, their families, and the workers who support them consistently highlights the need for specific, individualised, and long-term support to help youth avoid detention and successfully rehabilitate. This support is most effective when provided by trusted workers who understand the challenges youth face and remain committed to helping them.

The work of the QFCC and insights from the Child Death Review Board highlight that a family-focused approach, supported by strong community involvement, is vital to any youth justice reform. The community needs to be effectively engaged in addressing the causes and the solutions for this social issue. Only then will there be an adequate understanding of this complex ecosystem and the pathways created for safer communities into the future.

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<sup>3</sup> Queensland Family and Child Commission (2024). *Growing Up in Queensland*.

[https://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-](https://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-02/9022_QFCC_Growing%20Up%20in%20Queensland.WCAG%20reading%20order_Q3%20COMPRESSED.pdf)

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<sup>4</sup> Queensland Family and Child Commission (2024). *Exiting Youth Detention – Preventing crime by improving post-release support*.

[https://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-10/QFCC%20Submission%20-](https://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-10/QFCC%20Submission%20-%20Youth%20Justice%20and%20Incarceration%20-%20Federal%20-%20Oct%202024.pdf)

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Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important conversation, and to provide a submission to the Committee's consideration of the extension of the trial for electronic monitoring of youthful offenders.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter, please don't hesitate to contact me directly on [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



**Luke Twyford**  
**Principal Commissioner**  
**Queensland Family and Child Commission**

4 March 2025

