



Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services Inc

10 December 2013

Hon. Campbell Newman MP
Premier of Queensland
PO Box 15185
City East QLD 4002

Dear Premier,

Parliamentary inquiry into serious crime

Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services Inc (**QAILS**) welcomes your recent announcement that the Parliamentary Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee will conduct an inquiry into serious crime in Queensland.

Our 33 member community legal centres assist victims of crime understand their legal rights and navigate legal systems. Our members also act for people who commit/are alleged to have committed crimes, and understand the social and economic factors that contribute to people committing crime and entering the justice system. In our experience, it is common that people who commit crimes are often victims themselves, demonstrating the complexity of this issue.

Based on that experience, and our experience in parliamentary and statutory inquiries into various issues relating to the justice system, we write to respectfully provide our perspective on the terms of reference of the inquiry. Our preliminary suggestions are that the terms of reference for the inquiry should include investigating:

- the actual incidence of crime (reported and unreported) across Queensland by age, geography and crime type;
- the social and economic impact for victims of crime and their communities;
- the social and economic contributors to crime;
- the social and economic impacts of the serious crime of family and domestic violence;
- the types of sentence or response to offending that reduce further criminal activity and offending behaviours; and
- policies and strategies that reduce or prevent crime through proactively addressing the causes of crime, including policing practices and local and place-based initiatives, particularly programs that intervene early and prevent crime.

We look forward to participating in this inquiry, and would welcome the opportunity to discuss the terms of reference with the Government. I can be contacted on 07 3392 0092 or at director@qails.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

James Farrell
QAILS Director

cc Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice