



Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of
Domestic and Family Violence

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19 DEC 2022

Mr Herschel Baker
Queensland Director
Drug Free Australia

Dear Mr Baker

Thank you for your correspondence dated 22 November 2022 regarding the Coordinated Response to Young People At Risk (CRYPAR) program and your organisation's interest in support for children, young people and families at risk. I acknowledge your support for CRYPAR and concerns about its cessation.

Youth offending, and particularly the over-representation of First Nations young people in our criminal justice system, is a serious and complex issue which the Queensland Government is committed to addressing.

Thank you for providing me with the 2011 report by The University of Queensland (UQ) entitled *An assessment of the Coordinated Response to Young People at Risk Program*. As noted in the UQ report, the original CRYPAR program was subsumed by Supportlink in 2010. The UQ report suggests that several of the findings in the report should be considered in the context of Supportlink given the programs have the same intent for young people at risk of offending behaviour.

As Supportlink falls under the ministerial responsibilities of the Honourable Mark Ryan MP, Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, a copy of your correspondence has been referred to Minister Ryan for his consideration.

I have also provided a copy of your correspondence to the Honourable Leanne Linard MP, Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs for her consideration, as youth justice falls under the ministerial responsibilities of Minister Linard.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share with you progress on important programs of work within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG).

As part of the 2022-23 state budget, the Queensland Government has provided \$6 million over two years to establish the Criminal Justice Innovation Office (CJIO) as a multidisciplinary criminal justice policy team. The CJIO sits within DJAG. In addition, as part of the \$363 million package in response to Report 1 of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, the Queensland Government has established the First Nations Justice Office (FNJO) that will be working to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the criminal justice system.

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The CJIO will work alongside the FNJO to prioritise initiatives addressing overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in custody and improving justice responses to women and girls as well as improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice system for both adults and young people.

Also, the establishment of specialist courts in Queensland and court diversion programs focusses on vulnerable people in the justice system, victim safety, and addresses the underlying causes of offending; aims to reduce offending and improve community safety and involves a collaborative response from government agencies and non-government organisations including service providers.

The High Risk Youth Court (HRYC) commenced in Townsville in 2017 and is a specialist court list for young people aged between 10 and 17 who are considered to be at a high risk of re-offending. The same dedicated magistrate hears all matters and proceedings involving HRYC participants, and Elders from the Townsville Justice Group may provide support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who appear in this court list and their families. The HRYC is currently subject to evaluation.

If you have any questions in relation to the above, I invite you to contact Mr Dean Corless, Executive Director,

Yours sincerely

Shannon Fentiman MP

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

Member for Waterford

cc The Honourable Mark Ryan MP
Minister for Police and Corrective Services
Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
Member for Morayfield

cc The Honourable Leanne Linard MP
Minister for Children and Youth Justice
Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Member for Nudgee