



The Hon Jarrod Bleijie MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

In reply please quote: 544932/1; COM 06578-2012

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of Parliament
Parliament House
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 28 May 2012, enclosing petition 1848-12, regarding an overhaul of the *Youth Justice Act 1992* (the Act). I apologise for the delay in responding.

This Government is committed to holding young offenders accountable, rehabilitating repeat offenders and keeping our communities safe. To achieve this, we will be investigating options to strengthen the Act.

As part of the Government's *Safer Streets Crime Action Plan*, the Department of Justice and the Attorney-General will lead a trial of youth boot camps for young offenders. This program will divert 80 young people away from the youth detention into an intensive three month boot camp program.

I am currently working with my Department to determine the structure of the proposed boot camps. As part of the consultation process, I held a Ministerial Roundtable with key organisations in this area and I will also be visiting boot camp style facilities already operating across the State.

The Government has also committed to expanding the naming and shaming laws under the Act.

Under the Act, courts currently have the sentencing option to order young people to pay restitution to victims. The Act requires the court to determine if an offender has the capacity to pay the restitution.

I can advise you that in Queensland, the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* (VOCAA) outlines the financial assistance provisions available for victims of a crime which directly results in injury to another person. The four victim categories within include the primary victim and a related victim, regardless of the age of the offender.

Eligible victims of crime may, under VOCAA, receive financial assistance to help pay for goods and services necessary for recovery.

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Goods and services may include counselling or other psychological treatment, medical or other allied health treatments (such as chiropractic or speech therapy), recovery of earnings associated with the act of violence or a one-off payment.

To access the scheme, a victim must report the crime to police and complete a Victim Assist Queensland application form, attaching to it a Victim Assist Queensland medical certificate which has been completed by a General Practitioner or other registered health practitioner. The VOCAA can be located at the following website: www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/V/VictCrimAsA09.pdf

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

JARROD BLEIJIE MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice