



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

Mr Neil Laurie
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09 JUL 2012

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil

Thank you for your letter dated 30 May 2012, enclosing petition number 1893-12, regarding youth crime in Dimbulah.

This Government is committed to holding young offenders accountable, rehabilitating repeat offenders and keeping our communities safe.

Tougher penalties

You will be pleased to know that the Government is delivering on our election commitment to trial youth boot camps for young offenders. As part of the Government's *Safer Streets Crime Action Plan*, this program will divert 80 young people, who would otherwise receive custodial sentences, away from detention and 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 is also delivering on our election commitment to increase the maximum penalty for graffiti crime. When a young person has been found guilty of a graffiti-related offence and receives a supervised order, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General will prioritise their placement in a graffiti clean-up activity. Graffiti clean-up activities assist a young person to repair the harm caused by their offending to the community or victim and to understand the personal, financial and social costs resulting from damaging another person's property.

The Government will also assist local councils with \$2 million of additional funding each year for graffiti removal.

Increased police presence

With respect to youth crime in Dimbulah, I sought advice from the Queensland Police Service (QPS). I am advised that the offenders involved in the unlawful entries on the restaurant were also the same offenders responsible for a number of unlawful entries and other offences within the town. I am advised that offenders have been identified for these offences also.

I wish to emphasise that while there has been a recent increase in the number of unlawful entry offences within the town, the QPS has advised that the overall rate of offences remains low. As such, Dimbulah remains a safe place to live, work and visit.

The allocation of staffing and resources remains a matter for the QPS. I am aware that there has been some delay in filling the current Senior Constable vacancy at Dimbulah Police Station. However, Dimbulah Station has been provided with relief personnel to assist with providing an increased police presence in the town as well as being able to draw on the assistance of local support units as required.

Curfews

In Queensland, the *Youth Justice Act 1992* empowers the court to attach a curfew condition to an individual young person's probation order, intensive supervision order or a conditional release order. A curfew condition can require the young person to remain at a stated place during stated periods. The young person must be able to meet the terms of the curfew condition.

Victim compensation

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. 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.

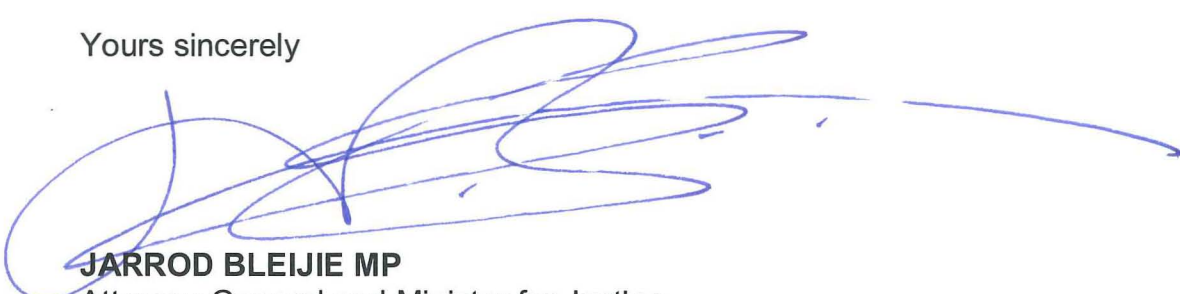
To access the scheme, a victim must report the crime to police and complete a Victim Assist Queensland application form, attaching to it a Victim Assist Queensland medical certificate which has been completed by a GP or other registered health practitioner. The VOCAA can be located on the following website:

www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/V/VictCrimAsA09.pdf

Under the *Youth Justice Act 1992* (YJ Act), courts currently have the sentencing option to order young people to pay restitution to victims. The YJ Act requires the court to determine if they have the capacity to pay.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely



JARROD BLEIJIE MP

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice