

Community Safety Plan for Queensland

EVIDENCE BASED
PLAN



Supporting
victims



Delivering for
our frontline



Detaining
offenders



Intervening when
people offend



Preventing crime
before it occurs



Queensland
Government



Acknowledgment of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their Elders as the Traditional Owners of the lands and seas on which we meet, live, learn and work.

We acknowledge those of the past, the ancestors whose strength has nurtured this land and its people, and who have passed on their wisdom. We acknowledge those of the present, for their leadership and ongoing effort to promote Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures. We acknowledge those of the future, who will inherit the legacy of our efforts.

We recognise it is our collective efforts, and responsibility as individuals, communities and governments, to ensure equality, recognition and advancement of First Nations peoples across all aspects of society and everyday life.



Queensland Police Commissioner's Foreword

I am proud to lead an organisation that will be at the forefront of the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland*.

As the newly appointed Commissioner of the Queensland Police Service (QPS), I have committed to making our community safer and feeling safer as a key focus of my leadership.

But it's not just a slogan – it's at the heart of who we are and what we do.

Broadly, the legislated functions of the QPS include:

- the preservation of peace and good order in all areas of the State, and areas outside the State, where the laws of Queensland may lawfully be applied
- the protection of all communities in the State and its citizens from the actions of criminals
- the prevention of crime
- the detection of offenders and bringing of offenders to justice
- upholding of the law generally.

The *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* will assist the QPS to fulfil these functions through a long-term approach for making Queensland communities safe by addressing the root causes of crime and reducing rates of offending.

The QPS is focused on achieving the best operational outcomes to deliver a safer community. As recently demonstrated by the launch of Operation Whiskey Legion – a rolling statewide operation targeting crime hotspots – we are doing everything in our power to drive down crime and hold offenders to account, while also supporting victims.

The QPS is committed to reducing crime and making Queensland the safest State. While it's encouraging that the statistics from the current financial year to date (31 March 2024) show a one per cent decrease in crime across the State, there is much more that must be done by all parts of the system to ensure the safety of every person in Queensland. The QPS continues to work closely with other agencies and the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* supports that endeavour.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Steve Gollschewski'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Gollschewski APM
Queensland Police Commissioner



Queensland Premier's Foreword

Every Queenslander deserves to feel safe and be safe.

Our communities must be safe places to live, work and enjoy Queensland's great lifestyle.

This is our plan to make sure they are.

Crime, particularly violent crime, leaves long lasting physical and mental scars.

For victims of crime, we've increased compensation and we will expand the Victims of Crime Community Response Program, improve victim liaison, and provide additional support to victims of child sexual assault.

The victim is not the only person who suffers. It echoes through the community. It can be extremely distressing to the loved ones of victims, their friends and neighbours and people in their local community.

Paramedics, police, doctors, nurses and domestic, family and sexual violence workers are left to pick up the pieces.

That's why we have invested heavily in crime prevention and deterrence measures, and Police tell us what we are doing is working. We are turning a corner, with a fall in crime over the last three months, but there is more to be done.

Frontline police numbers will be further increased, along with more community policing and more resources for our police. For example, the Police tell us the new helicopters are helping, so we're giving them two more.

Crime and the drivers of crime are complex problems for communities in every part of the world.

This *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* is our roadmap for tackling crime and its causes in Queensland. It sets out how we will develop, invest in and implement what's needed to stop crime now and address the complex root causes of crime for the future.

Tackling the root causes of crime requires a whole-of-government approach, so we are focusing and boosting investment in housing,



The Honourable Mark Ryan MP

Minister for Police and Community Safety

"Our police are on the frontline, working every day to keep Queensland's community safe. Recent data suggests that we are beginning to turn the corner in the battle against crime. By delivering more police, more police resources and the tough laws to back them in, we will continue to drive progress."



The Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP

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

"With more than half of all assaults being Domestic and Family Violence related, the Miles Government knows how important it is to support victim-survivors and the service providers that they rely on. We will never accept the scourge of domestic, family and sexual violence – not now, not ever."

education, jobs, family support, mental health and sport.

For most of us, there's nothing more important than the wellbeing of our family and the people we love. For our children, we want them to grow up connected to the Queensland community, confident and reassured that this is a home where they can thrive and have a great future.

But sadly, some young people in Queensland don't have hope for their future.

They don't feel connected, they don't feel cared for and they don't have adults they can rely on.

They may be growing up in homes where there is violence and dysfunction.

This is not just a risk for them, it is a risk for all of us.

The consequences of youth crime can be disastrous. If the warning signs are not seen and acted upon, people get hurt. The pain and the scars, physical and emotional, can last forever.

Where young people are not getting the support and direction they need at home,

we will intervene early to turn lives around before offending becomes more serious.

This Plan sets out further measures on intensive case management, electronic monitoring and domestic, family and sexual violence programs that break the cycle of reoffending.

There are cases where the best option to ensure community safety is detention.

For some, time in detention is not only a necessary deterrent, but also the only chance to provide the therapeutic attention they need to break out of the cycle of offending.

That's why we're expanding detention capacity and investing in the programs we can only deliver inside facilities.

This \$1.28 billion *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* builds significantly upon the Queensland Government's commitment to doing the complex, difficult and ongoing work needed for safer Queensland communities.



The Honourable
Steven Miles MP
Premier of Queensland



The Honourable
Di Farmer MP

Minister for Education and Minister for Youth Justice

"The Miles Government is committed to keeping Queenslanders safe. We are investing in more programs to tackle the root causes of crime. We will continue working with parents to get kids on the right path and ensure we always support victims."



The Honourable
Nikki Boyd MP

Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services

"Focusing on community safety means supporting victims and having programs to rehabilitate offenders. That's what this package does."



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A comprehensive approach to community safety

A comprehensive community safety plan doesn't just respond to crime when it occurs – it addresses the root causes to stop crime happening in the first place.

This means working across Government to address the many complex issues that lead to crime.

The *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* builds on a strong foundation including unprecedented investment across criminal justice, policing, health, education, sport, employment, domestic, family and sexual violence, and housing. These investments include:

\$1.65B For Better Care Together to support Queenslanders' mental health

\$3.1B Investment through the Homes for Queenslanders Plan

\$288M Package to keep students engaged in education

\$750M Committed to assist unemployed and underemployed Queenslanders to gain skills, qualifications and experience to enter the workforce since 2015

Community safety has always been a top priority for this government. In 2023, we made record breaking investments in our criminal justice system to provide direct support to victims and improve community safety. These investments included:

\$446.4M To address the causes of youth crime and boost police

\$200M To enhance support for victims of crime

\$1.5B Since 2015, to prevent, respond and break the cycle of domestic, family and sexual violence



Funding to construct Woodford Youth Detention Centre and a commitment to Cairns Youth Detention Centre



Delivered the Strengthening Community Safety Act 2023 to strengthen laws and hold offenders to account

\$1.28 billion for additional measures



Supporting victims

- Expansion of the Victims of Crime Community Response pilot program
- Continuation of the Queensland Intermediary Scheme to support vulnerable victims through court processes
- Enhancement of the Victim Liaison Service run by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- Additional ongoing annual funding for the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group.



Delivering for our frontline

- 900 new police personnel, including 500 new sworn police officers
- An additional 3000 wands (with every police station that needs one to receive one) and 1000 tasers for detection and response
- Increased police airborne capacity, including two helicopters for response work in Far North Queensland and Wide Bay/Sunshine Coast and new drone capability in priority regions across Queensland
- Expansion of the Youth Co-responder Teams model in Gold Coast, South Brisbane and Cairns and additional teams in the Sunshine Coast and South West regions
- Funding for the community legal sector
- Funding uplift of 20 per cent to support the domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) sector workforce.



Detaining offenders

- New therapeutic model for Woodford Youth Detention Centre
- A co-designed operating model for Wacol Remand Centre.



Intervening when people offend

- Expansion of targeted intervention to stop young people re-offending
- Expansion of electronic monitoring of young people
- Delivering programs and case management approaches to help people to address the underlying causes of offending and break the cycle of re-offending.



Preventing crime before it occurs

- Extend the Helping Seniors Secure their Homes trial
- New Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) for Caloundra and upgrades to the Redcliffe PCYC
- New Local Government Community Safety Fund
- Additional ongoing annual funding for Crime Stoppers and Neighbourhood Watch and \$200,000 in new ongoing annual funding for Stop the Coward Punch.

Snapshot of community safety in Queensland

This Plan is focused on doing more to continue reducing crime rates across Queensland. We are, and we will invest heavily in community safety through strengthening our laws, deploying extra frontline workers and taking a harder stance to prevent crime and hold offenders to account.

Queensland Police Service (QPS) data shows signs of success in keeping our communities safer when compared to the same reporting period last year.

Some categories of crime continued to trend upwards in the last quarter of 2023, for example there was a 5 per cent increase in offences against the person.*

1%	Decline in all offences
9%	Decline in unlawful entry
2%	Decline in unlawful use of a motor vehicle
1%	Decline in property crime offences
7%	Decline in fraud
2%	Decline in other offences

**QPS data July 2022 to March 2023 compared with July 2023 to March 2024, per 100,000 population, released 22 April 2024.*

A spotlight on domestic, family and sexual violence and safety for Queensland women

The scourge of domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) has a significant impact on crime rates. In Queensland 53 per cent of youth offenders are impacted by DFSV and over half of reported assaults in 2022-23 were domestic violence related.

The increased focus on tackling domestic violence is having a significant impact on the ability of service providers to meet increased demand for frontline support services.

The government is tackling DFSV at its roots. Since 2015 the government has invested more than \$1.5 billion to tackling DFSV, including more than doubling funding to non-government DFSV service providers over that time, in recognition of increased referrals to frontline service providers.

Recently, the government engaged the Queensland Council of Social Services to establish the state's new peak body for the Domestic and Family Violence sector and committed to further initiatives as part of Queensland's five year plan for the Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women 2024-2028. Further support was provided for primary prevention and training.

We understand the need for all frontline services, police and counselling support to be able to effectively work together in our battle to address the root causes of crime, to end DFSV and its dire impact on Queenslanders.

The *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* commits to a 20 per cent uplift in the funding provided to the DFSV sector, supporting more work to be done to keep women safe. The government acknowledges there is more work to do and is committed to working closely with these services to improve coordination and help ensure that increased demand can be met.

A spotlight on young people

Many young offenders are from disadvantaged backgrounds and there are complex underlying factors that can lead to crime.

We know that addressing the causes of crime with services, support and early intervention is an integral part of breaking the cycle of offending for this cohort.

This is why the Plan takes a whole-of-government approach to bring together education, health, sport, housing, community services, domestic violence and child protection services.

Of the young people in the youth justice system in 2023:

53%	Are impacted by domestic and family violence
48%	Are not enrolled in education, or in training or in employment
44%	Have one or more disabilities
39%	Have one or more mental health disorders
38%	Of youth in custody have used ice/methamphetamine in the past
30%	Are in unstable and or/unsuitable accommodation
26%	Have a parent who has been in custody
16%	Have one or more psychological behavioural issues

Department of Youth Justice data (2024).

Data from the Queensland Police Service (QPS) shows that youth offending has also decreased in the first quarter of 2024, when compared with the same reporting period last year (released 15 April 2024).



This Plan puts in place a range of new measures to intervene to stop offences by young people so we can continue to drive down offending.

Our commitment to community safety

At the heart of the Plan is recognising that the best way to keep Queensland communities safe is by intervening early and preventing crime from occurring in the first place.

This requires all of government and our entire community to work together with the common goal of making Queenslanders safer and feel safer.

When Queenslanders are given the opportunity to live a good life – a quality education, a good job, a safe place to call home, and strong physical and mental health – they're more likely to thrive and build a brighter future for themselves and their families.

When we back our frontline services with more police, record resources and deliver strong laws to support them, we create a safer, more supportive community for everyone.

Offenders will be held to account and those who pose a threat to community safety will be detained.

Crime needs to be tackled at its root causes. That's why the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* includes specialised, targeted support services like Intensive Case Management for young offenders and delivers the Gang Exit program. But community safety will always come first.

Through this Plan we remain committed to our Closing the Gap targets and reducing the over-representation of First Nations peoples in the criminal justice system. We will continue to place victims at the centre of our plan to ensure their voices are heard.

\$1.28 billion in new investment for community safety in Queensland

This Plan sets out a clear approach for keeping Queenslanders safe through five key pillars. The government will deliver on these pillars through the introduction of new legislative reforms and major investment in programs and systems that we know will work and help build safer communities for Queenslanders.

We will also measure and evaluate the success of our collective efforts to ensure that our programs and services continue to meet the needs of our communities.

Investment across the five pillars



Supporting victims



Delivering for our frontline



Detaining offenders



Intervening when people offend



Preventing crime before it occurs

More police to protect the community

Delivering a record boost to police numbers in Queensland

In 2020, we announced an historic investment in community safety and the biggest increase in police resourcing in decades – 2025 additional police personnel.

+900 new police personnel

The government will build on these record-breaking numbers through the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland*.

The government will invest a further \$493 million to create an additional 900 police personnel positions to keep Queenslanders safe. Additional personnel will also be committed to implement electronic monitoring reforms. This brings our commitment to over 3000 additional police personnel.

To help reach this goal the government has also announced major incentives to attract potential recruits to Queensland including a special cost of living allowance, \$20,000 to cover relocation costs for interstate and overseas applicants and up to \$20,000 towards eligible HECS/HELP debts for successful police recruit candidates. These incentives have seen the recruit pipeline improve by 200 per cent in the last year.

Today there are over 18,000 police personnel, more than 555 police recruits in training, and more than 2000 applicants in the recruit pipeline.

Attracting new recruits with:



Cost of living allowance

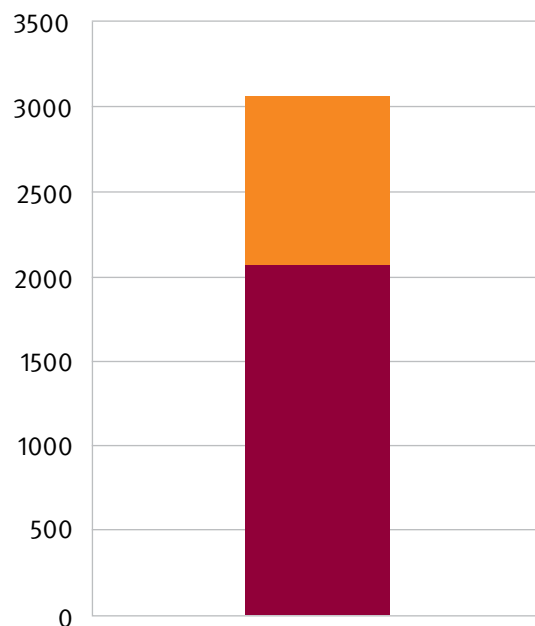
\$20,000

Relocation allowance

\$20,000

HECS/HELP relief

Our commitment to additional police personnel



- 2020 commitment (2025 additional Police personnel)
- *Community Safety Plan for Queensland (Additional 900 police personnel and additional personnel committed since 2022)*



Supporting victims



The *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* prioritises the needs of victims of crime, their families and communities. We're ensuring they receive all the support they need. We're investing an additional \$52.3 million to provide more resources and support for the specific needs of victims and their families.



Victims of Crime Community Response

In September 2023, the government announced more than \$200 million over five years to boost victim support services and financial assistance to victims of crime.

The Victims of Crime Community Response Program pilot, delivered in partnership with Victim Connect, currently provides immediate support to victims of crime 24-hours-a-day/7-days-a-week in three Queensland locations. This support ensures more applications can be assessed sooner.

The government will provide an additional \$16 million to continue delivering and expanding the program.

Enhancing the Victim Liaison Service

Our plan strengthens the Victim Liaison Service—a vital service, run by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions—that connects victims and their families with the prosecution, while their case is proceeding through court.

This Plan increases the number of Victim Liaison Officers through a \$2.759 million funding injection ensuring victims receive the support and information they need.

Victims' Commissioner

Our *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* recognises the crucial role of the Victims' Commissioner. This independent advocate appointed in 2023 champions the rights and needs of victims of crime.

Legislation to establish a permanent Commissioner is before the Parliament now and will embed a long-term voice for victims within the system. This will include joining the expanded Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council to inform research and advice to government and community with victims' experiences.



Independent Ministerial Advisory Council

Established in November 2023, the Independent Ministerial Advisory Council (IMAC) provides advice and guidance to the Queensland Government on reforming the criminal justice system and improving support for victims and victim-survivors.

This includes consideration of primary crime prevention and early intervention for young offenders, and those at risk of entering the criminal justice system in addition to rehabilitation for young people who offend.

IMAC membership includes victim-survivors, victim advocates, representatives from the legal sector and peak advocacy bodies, First Nations leaders and expert practitioners.

Opening the Children's Court

To deliver enhanced access to justice, the Queensland Government will change the law to ensure that victims, their families and the media can access Children's Court proceedings.

Justice reform

We have created a permanent Justice Reform Office, tasked with reforming the criminal justice system to focus on driving new approaches to:

- reduce demand on courts and prisons
- modernise Queensland's laws
- improve programs to divert people away from the criminal justice system
- help people to break the cycle of re-offending.

Other initiatives already underway include the review of the Financial Assistance Scheme which provides financial support for those who have been a victim of violent crime.



Continuation of the Queensland Intermediary Scheme

The Queensland Intermediary Scheme delivers essential communication services and support to child sexual assault victims.

By improving the quality of evidence given by children, young people and vulnerable adults, we're ensuring that Queensland victims receive the support they need.

Victim Assist Queensland

To ensure victims of crime receive timely financial assistance, the Queensland Government is investing \$15.6 million to increase the capacity of Victim Assist Queensland to process applications.

\$52.3M

To strengthen support for victims of crime, including to continue to deliver and expand the Victims of Crime Community Response Program and for Victim Assist Queensland



Delivering for our frontline



There are currently over 18,000 police personnel across Queensland. Every day, each and every one of them are working to keep our community safe.

The *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* commits to delivering more police and more police resources to protect Queenslanders.

Currently in Queensland our frontline community safety workforce includes:

18,000 +	Police personnel
4507	Corrective services officers
1033	Court officers
1059	Youth justice workers
616	Judicial and legal professional employees



More police, with more resources

To support the commitment of 900 additional police personnel, the government is investing right across Queensland to make sure our frontline is equipped with the tools they need to keep our communities safe.

In 2022, the government announced the investment of \$19.8 million in new and replacement body-worn cameras and tasers. We are replacing the entire fleet of 5400 tasers and increasing body-worn cameras from 7700 to 12,200.

Queensland's nation-leading *Jack's Law*, ensures that police have the authority they need to detect weapons using metal detecting wands, to deter offending and protect Queenslanders.

Currently police are using 1594 wands in Queensland. Through this Plan we are committing an additional 3000 wands so that all of Queensland's police stations have the wands they need to keep Queenslanders safe.

Additionally, 1000 state-of-the-art tasers will be delivered to the front line through an \$8.5 million investment to assist police in detecting and responding to dangerous and criminal activity. This will deliver greater safety for Queensland Police, whilst also reducing the need for lethal force in high-risk situations.



Kirwan Police Academy

Queensland currently has a record pipeline of Police Academy recruits. We are supporting our boosted police numbers with a state-of-the-art new Police Academy and Police Precinct at Kirwan.

The new Academy will house purpose-built education and training facilities and see specialist operational units co-located at the precinct including the Townsville Domestic and Family Violence and Vulnerable Persons Unit, High Risk Team, Youth Co-Responder Team, Tactical Crime Squad, Rapid Action and Patrol Group, Stronger Communities Early Action Group and the new Townsville PoliceLink Call Centre.

Additional police airborne capacity

Earlier this year the government announced a new POLAIR helicopter for Far North Queensland (Townsville).

Already this investment is paying dividends for the Townsville community. The POLAIR resource has been deployed 177* times, helping to apprehend a multitude of offenders.

The availability of this resource has assisted police to significantly reduce offending within the Townsville region in the first quarter of this year.

This approach will now be expanded, with additional police helicopter capability being delivered for the Sunshine Coast/Wide Bay region and in Far North Queensland.

Drone capability will also be increased.



For two new police helicopters and six new drones

** As of April 24*

3000

Additional metal detecting wands for police

1000

Additional state-of-the-art tasers

\$9M

To deliver the new tasers and wands

\$48M

For Bundaberg and Hervey Bay police station upgrades



Permanent Youth Crime Taskforce

The *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* delivers funding to make the Youth Crime Taskforce permanent. The Taskforce will deliver an enhanced capability to reduce crime.

With the Taskforce overseeing high visibility policing operations that apprehend offenders, while also coordinating effective intervention and prevention programs, this funding delivers the resourcing police need to improve community safety.

Upgraded police facilities

Police stations are an essential part of our frontline community services. As part of our ongoing program of delivering new and upgraded police stations, the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* includes upgrading the Hervey Bay Police Station (\$28 million investment) and the Bundaberg Police Station (\$20 million investment).

These upgrades contribute to ensuring all Queensland police stations are fit-for-purpose to meet the needs of our communities.

Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Sector Workforce

Every worker in the DFSV sector is working on the frontline to make a difference to the women experiencing violence that they support.

The *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* commits to a 20 per cent uplift in the funding provided to the DFSV sector, supporting more work to be done to keep women safe.



Detaining offenders



The simple fact is everyone deserves to be safe and feel safe in their community. Offenders will be put in detention if that's what it takes to keep the community safe.

We want to deliver prevention and intervention programs that allow all Queenslanders to thrive. However when crime does occur, Queensland needs empowered police and courts, strong laws and prison infrastructure to keep the community safe and provide the best opportunities for rehabilitation.

We've already invested significantly to increase Queensland's prison capacity through an \$885 million investment to build the new Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre, which is scheduled to commence commissioning in late 2024.

We are also building new youth detention centres in Woodford and Cairns, and a youth remand facility in Wacol to boost detention capacity and enable improved access to support services for young people.

\$261.4M

To establish a new therapeutic operating model at the Woodford Youth Detention Centre

Delivering detention and rehabilitation for offenders

When a person is serving a period of detention, we will make every effort possible to ensure that they break the cycle of offending and they are ready to be a productive member of the community when they leave detention.

We are listening to what the evidence tells us is the best way to ensure offenders can access rehabilitation programs, reducing recidivism.

Through this Plan the government is investing \$261.4 million to establish a new therapeutic operating model at the Woodford Youth Detention Centre to provide essential rehabilitation services aimed at reducing re-offending for young offenders.

We are also directing \$149.2 million for the Wacol Youth Remand Centre to reduce the number of young people in watchhouses and support stronger access to education and therapeutic services.

Strengthening youth justice laws to put community safety first

Along with more police and police resources, we are delivering the strong laws police need to protect Queenslanders and hold offenders to account.

We have strengthened our laws to break the cycle of offending for serious repeat young offenders and are introducing stronger penalties to support the efforts of police and the courts to reduce offending and hold offenders accountable.

The *Strengthening Community Safety Act 2023* supports greater community safety through the introduction of breach of bail as an offence for youth, expands the use of electronic monitoring of young people, expands the presumption against bail, introducing a 'serious repeat offender declaration' scheme and increased maximum penalties for certain types of crime.

The government is continuing to build on these reforms through new laws.

Tougher laws

Strengthening Laws

The government proposes to introduce laws to support our frontline workers, strengthen our laws and police powers, put in place tougher penalties and support victims, through:

- Expanding the electronic monitoring trial, including the circumstances and locations where it will apply
- Streamlining the transfer of 18 year olds into adult custody
- Enhancing access to Childrens Court proceedings for victims, victims' representatives, victims' families and the media
- Expanding the nation leading *Jack's Law* to enable metal detecting wands to be used in additional locations throughout the state including shopping centres, licensed premises, sporting and entertainment venues and high risk retail outlets, and extending the trial to October 2026
- Increasing the penalty for unlawfully possessing a knife in a public place and doubling the penalty for a second or subsequent offence
- Introducing a Firearms Prohibition Order Scheme in Queensland to prevent high risk individuals from accessing and using firearms
- Strengthening weapons licensing by increasing and expanding the current exclusion periods for people who have committed serious, disqualifying offences to make them unsuitable to have a weapons licence and deeming that dangerous offenders and participants in criminal organisations are not fit and proper persons for the purpose of having a weapons licence
- Increasing penalties for dangerous operation of a vehicle causing death or grievous bodily harm, including in circumstances where the driver was excessively speeding or intoxicated
- Better protecting emergency services workers through new offences for ramming emergency services vehicles and endangering police, and an increase to penalties for wilful damage of an emergency services vehicle
- Prohibiting 'posting and boasting' about certain offences on social media to curb glamourising and encouraging crime online
- Creating a framework for police to issue take-down notices to social media networks to remove content depicting criminality to reduce harm to, and traumatisation of the community.





Intervening when people offend

When a person starts going down the wrong path, evidence-based early intervention is crucial to get them back on track.

We will deliver evidence-based interventions to curb offending and allow at-risk Queenslanders to play a productive and fulfilling role in our community. We will do this by targeting the risk factors of re-offending, particularly among young people. Partnerships across our community, including non-government organisations and community groups, are critical to the delivery of intervention programs.

Stronger responses to ensure offenders are supervised

We are expanding the electronic monitoring trial for young people to allow courts to apply it in more areas of Queensland and for more reasons.

We will also make legislative changes to remove the barriers for alleged offenders on remand to participate in rehabilitation programs.

Tackling the complex causes of youth offending

We have already invested heavily in reforms of the youth justice system to put community safety first and introduced a wide range of intervention and diversionary programs, targeted at serious repeat offenders.

This includes a \$267.5 million investment in the 2023–24 State Budget to tackle the complex causes of youth crime. A range of initiatives targeted at youth offenders are being rolled out, including:

- Community Youth Response and Diversion On Country
- Intensive Bail Initiative
- Intensive Case Management Program.

In 2024, the government is trialling a new Intensive On Country program which will deliver supports to young people and their families to deal with a range of needs that contribute to offending including mental and physical health, substance misuse and accessing accommodation. Services will be delivered by, or in partnership with, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations.

As part of the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* the government is expanding the Intensive Case Management Program for young offenders and their families at the Cleveland and Brisbane Youth Detention Centres, as well as throughout the Bundaberg, Redlands, Central West/ Emerald, Gladstone Central and Sunshine Coast regions. We are establishing a youth justice peak body to act as a coordinating point for youth justice service providers in Queensland.

We are also expanding screening services across mental, cognitive disability and physical health screening in Youth Detention Centres to ensure underlying factors causing crime are being addressed and recidivism is reduced.

Expanding programs that work

We know that while the majority of young people are successfully diverted from the youth justice system through prevention and early intervention strategies, a small number of serious repeat offenders pose a threat to community safety.

That is why, through the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* we are investing in actions to bring young people who offend to account, including:

- Townsville Youth Court
- Fast-track sentencing
- Resourcing for strengthened bail laws.

The government is also committing to a new magistrate to service the Children’s Court in Mount Isa and the surrounding communities in the Gulf of Carpentaria.



Diverting people away from drug and alcohol use

The government recognises that the causes of offending are complex and require multi-faceted responses, including improved delivery of drug and alcohol services, together with better access to mental health supports.

We have funded programs such as the new Cairns Youth Alcohol and Other Drugs Treatment Service, which will provide a residential program for young people and their families to enable them to address serious drug and alcohol related difficulties.

We also fund the Townsville Street University which provides a safe space for young people at risk of contact with the youth justice system to engage in education workshops, drug and alcohol treatment and life skills training.

Expanding the police drug diversion program means that police can focus on reducing the harm associated with drug use and intervene in a way that maximises community safety.

This approach is complemented by a record \$1.65 billion investment for state-funded mental health, alcohol and other drug services through the Better Care Together Plan.

This included a Youth Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service program to help reduce the impact of drugs and alcohol as a factor contributing to offending.

The service delivers a physically and psychologically safe place for young offenders whilst addressing criminogenic factors. It provides a 10-bed residential facility in south-east Queensland, providing three months' residential treatment and up to three years' follow-up treatment.

In addition, through Better Care Together, we have allocated \$320.6 million investment over five years to 2027—to enable children, adolescents and young people and their families to access the support services necessary to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

This investment enables the delivery of enhanced treatment, care and support, including the new Head to Health kids services being established to provide mental health and wellbeing support for children aged between 0-11 years.

It also includes boosted assertive Mobile Youth Outreach Services that provide treatment and care for young people ages 13 to 18 years who are experiencing severe and complex mental ill health and more clinical staff for child and youth forensic mental health services for young people involved with the youth justice system.

Tackling drug addiction not only ensures that those experiencing addiction are less likely to offend, it also creates a home environment that is safer for children and reduces their chance of entering the justice system.

Funding these initiatives to support drug diversion and mental health outcomes is made possible by Queensland's mental health levy on large and very large business which is providing sustainable long-term funding for state-funded mental health, alcohol and other drug services. This means new and expanded services, more beds and more community treatment and support, and ensuring those who need support are getting it.

\$1.65B

For state-funded mental health, alcohol and other drug services through the Better Care Together Plan

\$320.6M

Invested over five years to 2027 to enable children, adolescents, and young people and their families to access the support services necessary to improve their mental health and wellbeing



More effective youth justice laws

The government has created a special sentencing regime for serious repeat young offenders, which gives primary regard to community safety when sentencing occurs.

We have also strengthened laws by:

- making breach of bail an offence for young offenders
- expanding the range of offences in which presumption against bail applies
- strengthening conditional release orders
- applying tougher sentencing principles for serious repeat young offenders.

Additional Youth Co-Responder teams and after-hours services

Our Youth Co-Responder teams operate across 13 locations, and the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* commits to expanding the teams in Cairns, the Gold Coast and South Brisbane and also commits to new teams in the Sunshine Coast and South West.

As part of the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* we are committing:

\$13.6M

The expansion of Youth Co-Responder teams in Cairns, the Gold Coast and South Brisbane and additional teams in Sunshine Coast and South West

\$6M

To partner with non-government organisations to provide after-hours support for young people to assist them into accommodation and other support services



CASE STUDY

R.E.A.P the Rewards Program for young offenders

The R.E.A.P program is funded by the Youth Development Partnership Fund, which helps communities to support young people in their area and achieve their full potential.

The R.E.A.P program has successfully used sport to help young offenders in Logan break the cycle of crime. R.E.A.P is a touch football program which engages young people through sport, pairing them with mentors and police to build relationships, teach life skills and help them get back on the right track.

R.E.A.P mentors also assist young people to re-engage with education, employment and other life pathways out of offending. In 2023 R.E.A.P successfully helped 93 per cent of young people who participated in the program to stop or decrease their offending.







CASE STUDY

Intensive Case Management supporting high risk young people and their families

The Intensive Case Management program is supporting young people in the Youth Justice system to engage with the community, address the risk factors leading to their offending and break the cycle of crime.

Mitchell is a 16 year old boy who started offending at 11 years old. He has a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, speech and language disorders and oppositional defiance disorder. He experienced significant trauma and abuse throughout his childhood and is currently living in residential care on a Child Safety Order. Mitchell has a history of over 284 offences, but with the support of Intensive Case Management, he has significantly reduced the frequency of his offending.

Since Mitchell engaged with the Intensive Case Management program, he participated in offending interventions, including the Changing Habits and Reaching Targets and the Re-Thinking Our Attitudes Towards Driving programs. He obtained part-time employment and has been working with his Child Safety Officer and Intensive Case Management team to develop life skills and strengthen relationships with his placement staff and his family members.

With this intensive support, Mitchell's offending significantly reduced.





Preventing crime before it occurs



By tackling the root causes of crime, we can give young Queenslanders the best start in life and deliver a safer community.

This Plan commits to deliver world-class services that help young Queenslanders and their families thrive.

Investing in programs that target risk factors that give rise to offending means a stronger and safer Queensland for everyone.

After a significant investment in proven prevention programs, data is showing a significant reduction in offending.

\$56M

Invested in the 2023–24 State Budget for PCYC facilities across 55 locations to help deliver intervention programs for young people each year

\$15M

For a new PCYC in Caloundra

\$5M

For a new Local Government Community Safety Fund in priority locations

Improving environmental factors

Investing in grass roots, community-based supports and programs

We are investing in early intervention programs across Queensland to make sure at-risk young people have access to programs and supports that work to divert them from the criminal justice system. We have invested across a range of these programs, including:

- Townsville Street University
- Youth Development Partnership Fund including the Cairns Safer Streets and Moonlight Hoops Basketball Programs
- Early Action Groups which deliver a multi-agency, collaborative response to young people at risk
- JT Academy which supports at risk young people to thrive
- Project Booyah supporting 200 young people annually
- School Support Officer Programs with 60 staff in schools to intervene early to ensure young people are supported inside and outside the school gate
- BullyProof Australia's AMAYDA Resilience Program.

Acknowledging the important role that our PCYC play in looking after our youth in over 55 Queensland locations, in 2023-24 the Queensland Government committed \$56 million for new and upgraded PCYC facilities across Queensland to deliver enhanced intervention programs for at-risk youth, including programs like after-dark basketball and boxing in areas of high-need.

The *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* commits to an additional \$15 million for a new PCYC in Caloundra and \$2 million to upgrade the Redcliffe facility.

We are also investing \$5 million in a new Local Government Community Safety Fund to make sure communities in priority locations have access to appropriate CCTV and lighting in communal spaces.

Helping Seniors Secure their Homes

Since 2023 the Queensland Government has invested \$30 million in a trial to help Seniors secure their homes in Townsville, Mount Isa, Cairns, Toowoomba, Tablelands and Mareeba. The initiative, delivered through partnerships with non-government organisations, provides grant funding to eligible seniors to install security related measures in their homes.

The plan will invest almost \$40 million to extend the Helping Seniors Secure their Homes trial in its current locations until the end of 2024.

Supporting community-based approaches to crime prevention

Delivering a safer Queensland requires our whole community to work together. Our local community groups play a critical role in crime prevention and helping people stay safe.

Through the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland*, the government has committed additional investment of \$3.2 million to boost ongoing annual funding for Neighbourhood Watch, Queensland Homicide Victims' Group and Crime Stoppers and \$200,000 in new ongoing annual funding for Stop the Coward Punch. This will support communities to work pro-actively with law enforcement agencies and ensure their community is safe and thriving.

Supporting and strengthening Queensland families for the best possible outcomes.

The government is supporting and strengthening Queensland families for the best possible outcomes.

To do that we need to make sure kids are growing up in a safe and stable environment that gives them access to our universal education and health systems, with the prospect of a good job on the other side.

The Queensland Government provides supports to new parents to help them build secure relationships with their children.

These include Child Health and Development clinics, which provide parenting information, supports and other services, together with the Ellen Barron Family Centre Parent Education Program, which includes a five day residential program for families with complex parenting challenges.

Non-government providers are also funded to offer parenting programs for families going through tough times, with services such as Family Child Connect helping families experiencing a range of parenting challenges, including financial, housing, cost of living pressures, drug and alcohol dependencies, family violence and school disengagement.

The Queensland Government is developing the *Putting Queensland Kids First Plan*. This will guide our early engagement approach.

Delivery of culturally-specific family services are critical to advancing our Closing the Gap targets. Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Wellbeing Services provide community-led support to First Nations young people and families.

We also deliver family-led decision making for Aboriginal young people involved in the youth justice system, to ensure culture and family are central in decision-making about First Nations young people, including keeping students engaged in education.

As part of the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* the government is committing to the appointment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner.



We also recognise that there are times when some Queenslanders might need additional support.

That is why the government is investing in prevention and early intervention services to better address the complex challenges facing some of our community and achieve better outcomes for vulnerable children, young people and families.

For example, Family and Child Connect assists families to care for and protect their children at home. It does this by connecting them to the right services at the right time. The service also assists parents in developing their parenting skills and aims to link families to the level of support required to help them stay together. Intensive Family Support services are also available for families facing more complex challenges to help make positive changes to their circumstances and prevent the need for statutory intervention.

Our Community Safety Plan for Queensland will continue to work with parents to ensure their kids stay on the right track.

Keeping students engaged in education

We are committed to strong educational outcomes to give children and young people the best start in life and to continue learning. From 1 January 2024, free Kindergarten for Queensland children attending a government-approved kindergarten program enables children to play while learning, enhancing their social development skills, creativity and problem solving and physical development.

For young people entering the workforce, Fee-Free TAFE has been extended until 2026 to allow eligible Queenslanders to study priority skill sets and qualifications in high demand industries.

While not every young person who is disengaged with the education system ends up in the youth justice system, every young Queenslander in the youth justice system is disengaged with their education.

That is why we are delivering a \$288 million education engagement package aimed at keeping kids learning. This includes expanding the successful Queensland Pathways State College, 50 new FlexiSpaces in schools and specialised alternative learning programs run by NGOs in Cairns, Townsville, Ipswich and Mt Isa along with additional support for those involved in youth justice.

We are also investing in our students' wellbeing through the Queensland GPs in Schools program, which is removing barriers students may otherwise face in receiving timely and appropriate healthcare. The provision of this service has positive impacts for students' health and wellbeing and their readiness and ability to engage at school.

Addressing the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the criminal justice system

Community Justice Groups (CJG) are non-government organisations that provide community-based responses to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples involved in the criminal justice system. The Queensland Government CJG program provides grant funding to 41 CJGs across Queensland to deliver community-based, person-centred approaches to working with police, corrective services personnel and magistrates.

The Queensland Government will also provide more than \$10 million in 2024-25 for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service who provide critical support.

The Queensland Government has committed to do more to achieve Closing the Gap targets and reduce the over-representation of First Nations peoples in the criminal justice system. A First Nations Justice Strategy will be further developed and released to support our goal of reducing the disproportionate representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the justice system.



Our commitment to accountable governance

We are committed to transparent and accountable governance and implementation. Implementation of the *Community Safety Plan for Queensland* will have senior ministerial oversight through the Community Safety Cabinet Committee to monitor its effectiveness.

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Community Safety Plan
For Queensland