

# Changing the sentence Factsheet

## Changing the sentence

The Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) has written a report about the Youth Justice system in Queensland. It is called Changing the sentence.

## Who did we talk to?

The QFCC talked to people who provide services and support to young people involved with Queensland's youth justice system. This included legal, health, education and bail support, and other services that help young people stay out of court and detention.

We also talked to young people in the youth justice system, and their families.

## What did they say?

### Children and young people said:

*"Keep our parents and guardians informed and involved."*

*"Try to understand why we ended up in trouble."*

*"Refer us to support services the first time we go to court."*

*"Support us for as long as we need the support."*

*"Get to know us as individuals."*

### Support services and families said:

*"Focus on supporting families right from when a baby is born and throughout childhood, so any health needs or family problems are being seen to."*

*"The small number of young people doing most of the crime (and their families) need long term, consistent help to get away from crime."*

*"For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children, the support should be provided by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander run organisations and communities."*

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## The report found the youth justice system should focus on:

- Reducing the factors that may contribute to a young person committing crime (prevention and early intervention) and
- Specialised services for the young people already in the formal system who are committing most of the crime.
- The system is more likely to be effective if at-risk young people are viewed through a rights and well-being, rather than criminal, lens.

## Youth Justice statistics



**0.3%** of Qld children aged 10 to 17 are in contact with youth justice.



Children living in remote places are **6 times** more likely to be under youth justice supervision

Children living in places where many people are poor are **10 times** more likely to be under youth justice supervision.



**70%** of young people in detention are Indigenous

## What happens next?

The QFCC will be sharing our findings with government agencies and asking them to take action based on what we found. We will be looking at how young people (and their families) in the youth justice system can be helped, while still keeping the community safe. The full report is available from the Queensland Family and Child Commission website [www.qfcc.qld.gov.au](http://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au)

If you want more information:

**Phone: 07 3900 6000**

**Email: [info@qfcc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@qfcc.qld.gov.au)**