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To whom it may concern:

Queensland Labor has recently made breach of bail a crime for children and it has resisted calls by youth justice experts to increase the age of criminal responsibility. Being tough on crime will not stop disadvantaged children from doing crime. Take away the disadvantage and you take away a huge incentive to do crime.

Since 2020 Queensland has locked up more children than any other state, at a cost of \$2000 per day per child. This cost should be spent helping children rather than abusing them in an antiquated prison system.

Quoting former Australian Federal Police commissioner Mick Palmer, "we can't imprison our way to a safer Queensland."

Our most disadvantaged young people need a chance, we must move beyond simplistic "tough on crime" approaches and invest properly in early intervention and rehabilitation.

We need to end the poverty and hopelessness that exists in the communities where young people are most at risk. That means reversing the decades-long trend of under-investment in public services that has crippled regional communities and widened inequality.

Queensland is a wealthy state in a wealthy country. Instead of spending more than half a trillion dollars on nuclear subs and tax cuts for the wealthy, we could fully fund public schools, provide world-class health services, guarantee a safe, secure and affordable home for all and raise income support above the poverty line. These are the measures we must invest in, rather than investing in the abuse of disadvantaged children.

At the bare minimum we must raise the age of criminal responsibility to 16 years, any younger is child abuse.

Regards
Anne Jackson

