

National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference 2023

Queensland Law Society
Thursday, 22 June 2023

Innovation and reform: Responding to the law and order agenda

Youth Crime & Youth Justice

Bob Atkinson AO APM



Report on Youth Justice 2018

Executive Summary

Page 6

Our key finding and recommendation is that the Queensland Government adopt as its policy position for youth justice, four objectives that we have called the 'Four Pillars' framed or 'bookended' by two fundamental principles – that public safety is paramount and that community confidence is essential.

The 'Four Pillars' are:

1. Intervene Early
2. Keep children out of court
3. Keep children out of custody, and
4. Reduce reoffending

Community Confidence

1.
Intervene
Early

2.
Keep Children
out of Court

3.
Keep children
out of custody

4.
Reduce
Reoffending

Public Safety

Report on Youth Justice 2018

The Four Pillars

1.

Intervene Early

Preventing crime at its most fundamental level involves ensuring children are born healthy and raised in loving, supportive environments where their physical, emotional and social needs are met. Prevention and early intervention responses can be applied at many touchpoints across the lifespan of a child. This starts as early as pre-natal care for mothers, ensuring children get the best start in life and includes areas such as health, family support, financial wellbeing, education, housing and disability. Due to its broad nature, prevention and early intervention is a whole of community and whole of Government responsibility, requiring a collaborative approach.

Damage Dozen

1. Foetal Alcohol Syndrome
2. Early childhood (Vocabulary and Reading)
3. Exposure to domestic violence
4. Physical health
5. Mental Health
6. Exposure to substance abuse (alcohol, drugs, tobacco, accelerants)
7. Abuse - Emotional, Physical, Sexual, psychological and neglect
8. Role models – values
9. Nutrition and lifestyle
10. Response realities
11. Homelessness and overcrowding
12. Education outcomes

Australian Child Maltreatment Study

Findings from a national survey 2023

Child Maltreatment in Australia

1st Nationally representative Australian prevalence data about the 5 types of child maltreatment, and multi-type maltreatment.

Survey of **8500** Australians aged >16

Among all Australians:

32.0% experienced physical abuse

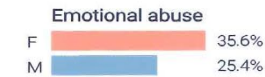
28.5% experienced sexual abuse

30.9% experienced emotional abuse

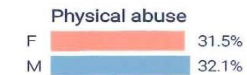
8.9% experienced neglect

39.6% experienced exposure to domestic violence (EDV)

Girls experience three of the maltreatment types more often than boys



Girls and boys experience comparable levels of:



Mathews B et al. (2023) The prevalence of child maltreatment in Australia: findings from a national survey. Med J Aust. 218 (6). For information about the ACMS and



Report on Youth Justice

from Bob Atkinson AO,
APM, Special Advisor to Di
Farmer MP, Minister for
Child Safety, Youth and
Women and Minister for
Prevention of Domestic
and Family Violence

8 June 2018

On 12 February 2018 Mr Robert Atkinson AO was appointed Special Advisor to the Honourable Di Farmer MP, Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

Mr Atkinson was asked to examine and report on a series of youth justice matters by 8 June 2018, and to advise on:

1. progress of the government's youth justice reforms, and next steps
2. other measures to reduce recidivism, and
3. recommendations for youth detention stemming from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse.

This report addresses the first two terms of reference while the third is addressed by the Queensland Government Response to the Royal Commission.

The report is available on the Qld Government website –
www.cyjma.qld.gov.au/about-us/reviews-inquiries/Atkinson-report

Thank you

The cover features a background image of a person with long blonde hair writing on a document. It includes three inset images: a row of colorful sneakers, a person writing on a whiteboard, and a person in a red cap working at a desk. The text on the cover reads: 'Report on Youth Justice from Bob Atkinson AO, APM, Special Advisor to Di Farmer MP, Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Version 2'. The date '8 June 2018' is displayed in a dark bar. The Queensland Government logo is in the bottom right corner.

Report on Youth Justice
from Bob Atkinson AO, APM, Special Advisor
to Di Farmer MP, Minister for Child Safety,
Youth and Women and Minister for
Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence
Version 2

8 June 2018

**Queensland
Government**