Services in the youth justice system

Through Advancing Queensland’s Priorities, the Queensland Government is focused on keeping our communities safe. We know this is best achieved through early intervention activities, such as diversionary programs, along with education, training, employment, housing and sport, that wrap around at-risk young people and their families. By addressing the drivers of youth crime and better supporting young people on the transition to adulthood, young people can avoid becoming entrenched in the criminal justice system. They are also provided with alternative pathways that create better lives, brighter futures and give our children a great start.
These programs outline the Queensland Government’s current investment package of more than $550 million.

**Youth Justice Investment Package**

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**Transition to Success**
Transition to Success provides young people in the youth justice system, or at risk of entering it, a 10- to 16-week program where they complete vocational training certificates and work experience with local organisations.

**Specialised Multi-Agency Response Teams (SMART)**
Specialist staff and case workers provide a coordinated assessment of the underlying factors that contributed to a young person’s offending and advise the courts which support programs will best address their behaviours to prevent re-offending.

**Blitz on Bail (QPS)**
Additional police and Youth Justice specialist court positions are working collaboratively to improve bail compliance and reduce high-risk young people on bail reoffending.

**Tougher action on bail**
This police operation targets high-risk offenders aiming to improve bail compliance, change offending behaviours, and address the underlying causes of offending.

**On Country trial**
The On Country trial is a community-driven response in Cairns, Mount Isa and Townsville providing culture-based rehabilitation for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders with complex needs. All young people engaged in the trial are provided with one-on-one support and supervision by On Country Elders and community leaders, who facilitate connection with culture and country while on camps, in the community, and while engaging with education and training.

**Integrated case management**
This program provides specialised case managers who deliver intensive support for a small number of high-risk young offenders and their families to reduce re-offending and limit the number of young people in remand.

**Our Child information sharing platform**
This is a system that allows instantaneous information sharing between agencies to support timely decision-making for vulnerable children who are subject to a supervised community order or bail program.

**Bail support services (NGO partners)**
This program delivered by community organisations assists young people at risk of being remanded in custody, providing support to ensure they meet their bail conditions. Organisations provide basic needs and connect young people to housing, education, health and family support to reduce offending.

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**Family Wellbeing Services**
This program provides family-focused support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their families to help young people re-engage with kin, schools and communities and prevent contact with the youth justice system.

**Community Youth Response and Diversion**
This initiative provides diversionary responses after hours to keep young people out of courts and custody, and programs to assist young people to overcome barriers around accessing education, and mentoring and integrated case management to prevent re-offending. Each response looks different depending on the needs of the specific community.

**Additional court sitting days**
An additional 10 Childrens Court sitting days provides greater capacity to deal with court matters for children and young people accused of offences. This has immediate and positive benefits as it speed up bail applications, decision-making and other court processes to keep children out of court and custody and reduce their length of stay.

**Restorative Justice conferencing**
Restorative Justice conferencing is an inclusive process that establishes a meeting between a child or young person who has committed a crime and the people who were affected to discuss what happened, the impact and what can be done to start making things right.

**Family-led decision-making trial**
This program gives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, whose children are in contact with the youth justice system, a stronger voice in decisions about their children. It involves a conference between a young person, their family, community organisations and youth justice staff to reduce offending.

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**Conditional Bail Program**
This program provides support for at risk young people to increase their ability to remain in the community while before the courts. It addresses young people’s educational and vocational needs, mental health issues, family intervention and accommodation. The program gives the court confidence that children will receive individualised and intensive supervision while they are on bail.

**Co-responder teams**
Co-responder teams of police and youth justice workers provide coordinated responses to high-risk offenders and link them with community supports, including after hours.

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**West Moreton Youth Detention Centre**
A new 32-bed youth detention centre is being built to better support demand pressures and keep the community safe.

**Brisbane Youth Detention Centre**
A new 16-bed youth detention building has been constructed at the existing centre to better support demand pressures and keep the community safe.

**Empowering local communities**
Community-Based Crime Action Committees are being established with the aim of improving collaboration and joint action to prevent and respond to youth crime.