

Inquiry into Imprisonment and recidivism

The Queensland Productivity Commission released its draft report into imprisonment and recidivism on 1 February.

It outlines the Commission's preliminary analysis and findings and recommends policy reforms that the Queensland Government can make to address Queensland's rising prison imprisonment and recidivism rates.

Download the draft report or register your interest here: qpc.qld.gov.au/inquiries/imprisonment

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

Imprisonment rates are **rising** despite **falls** in crime rates

There is **little evidence** that the increasing use of imprisonment benefits the community.

PRISONS ARE **OVERCROWDED** compromising safety and rehabilitation efforts

On current trends, investments of **\$5.2 to \$6.5 billion** will be required to ensure that prison capacity is able to **meet demand in 2025**

PRISONS ARE **EXPENSIVE** - it costs around **\$107,000** per year to house each prisoner

High rates of reoffending are compromising community safety

The Queensland Productivity Commission is an independent statutory body that provides policy advice on complex economic and regulatory issues.

The Commission has an advisory role and operates independently from the Queensland Government - its views, findings and recommendations are based on its own analysis and judgement.



Recommendations

OPTIONS FOR CHANGE			
			
<p>Adopt more effective ways to deal with offending</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the range of, and support for non-custodial sanctions • Introduce victim restoration and restitution • Reduce the scope of criminal offences 	<p>Break the cycle of reoffending</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver an effective model of throughcare • Remove regulatory and operational impediments to rehabilitation and reintegration • Ensure prison facilities support rehabilitation 	<p>Reduce interactions with the criminal justice system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address gaps in intervention and prevention • Expand the use of diversionary options 	<p>Build a better decision-making architecture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify objectives for the criminal justice system • Enhance transparency and accountability • Ensure evidence-based funding and policy decisions

The recommendations in the draft report were developed after extensive consultation with stakeholders including government agencies, victim and prisoner advocates, unions, the judiciary, legal bodies, Indigenous peak bodies, academics and members of the public.

These recommendations are likely to improve community safety by addressing many of the issues that drive offending and will improve outcomes for the Queensland community over the medium to long term.

More evidence is being sought

The policy areas under consideration for this inquiry are complex and controversial.

Further, the evidence is not always clear or settled. For some areas the Commission is still analysing the evidence, including data from Queensland Government agencies.

Stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback on the draft report. The Commission will be consulting widely from February 2019.

Key dates

2018	September	Issues paper released
	14 September – 26 October	initial consultation
2019	1 February	Release of draft report
	From February	Further consultation
	17 April	Submissions due
	1 August	final report submitted to government

