



youth affairs network qld

ABN 28 205 281 339

17<sup>th</sup> October 2007

Review of the Juvenile Justice Act 1992  
Strategic Policy Directorate  
Department of Communities  
GPO Box 806  
Brisbane Qld 4001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have pleasure in forwarding, for your consideration, a submission response by Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ) to the review of the Juvenile Justice Act 1992.

As you are probably aware, YANQ is the peak community youth affairs organisation in Queensland. Representing approximately 260 individuals and organisations from Queensland's youth sector, we promote the interests and well being of young people across the state. YANQ advocates for and with young people, especially marginalised young people, to government and the community. Further, YANQ encourages and participates in the development of policies, programs, projects and research that are responsive to the rights and needs of young people.

YANQ's work is informed by its membership and the Youth Consultative Network (YCN) is a mechanism for youth interagencies from across the state to engage with the work of YANQ. YANQ is also an active member of the Youth Justice Coalition and the Youth Justice Reference Group.

During the consultation phase for developing this submission, YANQ held a specific Juvenile Justice forum in Brisbane. The Department of Community as well as a number of youth and legal services provided specific information relating to the review of the Juvenile Justice Act 1992. Over 50 people attended this forum. There has been a great amount of interest in this review, YANQ uploaded the summary and notes from the Juvenile Justice forum and in the first 3 days there has been 130 hits on our website downloading the information from the forum.

YANQ also provided an opportunity for youth sector members to provide feedback to our draft submission and an option for youth sector members to endorse our submission. We have received feedback from members across the state. As well as YANQ members broad support, our submission has received strong endorsement by Uniting Care Centre for Social Justice, Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (ECCQ), Brisbane Youth Service (BYS), Just Rights Qld, Prisoners Legal Service and , Faculty of Law, at the Queensland University of Technology.

YANQ has provided feedback to the Department of Communities on the need for meaningful engagement and consultation with young people. YANQ has offered the Department to coordinate this consultation. We hope that the Department of Communities acknowledges the need for engaging the key stakeholder in this review and provide the youth sector with the necessary resources for this consultation to occur.

Finally YANQ would like to stress the need for investment in prevention and early intervention in order to reduce the number of young people having contact with the Juvenile Justice System.

The youth sector looks forward to working in a collaborative way with the Department in implementing the various recommendations contained within our submission. Please do not hesitate to contact myself if you require any further information and /or clarifications.

Yours faithfully

**Siyavash Doostkhah**  
**Director**  
**Youth Affairs Network Old**