



youth affairs network qld

## MEDIA RELEASE

31th August 2016

### LNP missing in action

Youth Affairs Network of Queensland's (YANQ) Director Siyavash Doostkhah, has expressed serious concern about lack of any statements from the LNP in regards to recent youth justice developments. "It looks like the LNP is lurking silently getting ready to pounce on the Government. They are playing politics with young people's lives and this is totally unacceptable" Mr Doostkhah said.

Mr Walker, the Shadow Attorney General and Mr Nicholls, the Opposition Leader need to demonstrate to Queenslanders that LNP is not just a relic from the past opposing any Labor proposal just to be seen as a strong opposition. They really need to rise beyond the traditional adversarial role they have been playing and in particular on sensitive issues like the safety and wellbeing of our children show bipartisan support for a progressive agenda.

Yesterday YANQ issued a warning to Queensland Government that unless they instigate immediate action to genuinely and openly improve the youth justice system, YANQ will ask the United Nations (UN) to intervene to protect Queensland's children. We think that LNP could put extra pressure on the government by declaring their preparedness to support changes to the youth justice system which would include, the Government ceasing the over-reliance on remand, ending detention of children aged below 13 years of age in juvenile detention, and ending the incarceration of 17 year olds in adult prisons. YANQ also want to see the Queensland Government shift the responsibility for management of youth justice from the Attorney General's portfolio back to the Community and Youth portfolio.

"Putting a kid in shackles and head cover is the least harm some of these kids are exposed to, **for God's sake we have innocent children being raped in adult prisons**". We will do everything in our power, including the use our Special Consultative Status with the UN, to lodge a formal complaint and ask the international body to intervene in order to protect Queensland children from harm", Mr Doostkhah said.

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