



Petition

Registration No.	38
Title	Opposed to the proposed changes within the Youth Justice and Related Legislation Amendment Act 2019 and request the parliament to toughen property crime laws in the Northern Territory
Presented on	8 August 2019
Presented by	Member for Spillett (Mrs Finocchiaro)
Referred to	Minister for Territory Families and Social Policy Scrutiny Committee
Assembly debate	If the Committee recommends the Petition be debated it will appear on the Notice Paper
Date referred	12 August 2019
Response due	28 November 2019
Response received	4 October 2019
Response presented	15 October 2019

Petition

We the undersigned respectfully showeth that we are strongly opposed to the proposed changes within the Youth Justice and Related Legislation Amendment Act 2019 and request the parliament to toughen property crime laws in the Northern Territory.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that the Northern Territory Government take heed of the community of the Northern Territory and legislate tougher penalties to property crime offenders.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

Response

The Youth Justice and Related Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 provides a strong legislative framework to support the coordinated efforts of this Government to achieve important reform for young people and the community.

We are committed to keeping communities safe for all Territorians. We know that preventing re-offending is the most effective way to cut crime, improve public safety, and reduce the cost to

taxpayers. Young people committing offences need to face the consequences of their behaviours and be held accountable to the community. That is why we are delivering more police, new Police Stations in Palmerston and Nightcliff and have made an historical investment in the youth justice system of \$61.2 million in the 2019 budget.

We know that it is critically important that victims have a right to be heard and be treated better for the hardship they face from these experiences. On 21 August 2019, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice confirmed our approach to putting the rights of victims first with the release of the Strengthened Victims Charter.

The Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory was clear that children and young people need responses from Government that change their behaviour. The Youth Justice and Related Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 makes responses to young people who have offended more timely, targeted and effective. It is based on research and evidence and empowers police and the courts to use their professional judgement more efficiently to achieve better outcomes for the community.

This Government is fundamentally changing the way it works with young people who are at risk of, or engaging in offending behaviours. Effective initiatives and partnerships across agencies and with non-government organisations are working to address and reduce youth crime and increase community safety across the Territory. This Government understands that if we don't invest now to reform the youth justice system and put young people back on the right path, the cost to Territorians will be far greater. This Government is listening to the evidence to make generational change for our community and is addressing youth crime in a way that is effective and longstanding.