



Petition

Registration No.	15
Title	Justice for Pearl the Pony
Presented on	23 November 2017
Presented by	Hon Kezia Purick MLA
Referred to	Minister for Primary Industry and Resources
Date referred	27 November 2017
Response due	8 May 2017
Response received	4 May 2018
Response to be presented	8 May 2018

Petition

Pearl was a 20 year old mare - stabled at Fannie Bay Equestrian Club. In October 2017, Pearl was shot with two crossbow arrows that resulted in her Death.

The perpetrator was a 17 year old male, who under our Northern Territory (Australia) Government legislation, can walk free. The perpetrator is believed to have been "hunting" Wallabies, Dogs and anything else that is defenceless and out at night.

He confessed to the crime, but won't face any jail time. He walked - it's called a "Youth Diversion Program".

Our legislation needs to be a whole lot tougher than this. Our LAWS that apply to the Animal Welfare act need to be toughened up.

In doing this I feel, at least something will be learned from Darling Pearl's monstrous, violent, macabre, contemptible, heinous attack.

Response

Outlined below is my response to the issues raised in the petition regarding the need to toughen up our laws in respect to the *Animal Welfare Act* and the *Youth Justice Act*

The Animal Welfare Act

The Animal Welfare Act falls under the portfolio of the Minister for Primary Industry and Resources, the Hon Ken Vowles MLA. His office has informed me that amendments to the *Animal Welfare Act* are being proposed as a result of feedback from a discussion a paper released for public consultation in 2014 as well as recent targeted discussions with stakeholders. Stakeholders consulted generally favoured increases to penalties across animal welfare offences, including those for cruelty and aggravated cruelty.

The introduction of any amendments to the *Animal Welfare Act* in the Legislative Assembly will be referred to a scrutiny committee for public consultation. This process will provide another opportunity for public submissions.

The Youth Justice Act

The *Youth Justice Act* falls under my portfolio as Minister for Territory Families. Section 39 includes a presumption for diversion and unless the offending is excluded under Part V or VI of the *Traffic Act*, all offending must be considered for diversion.

An assessment of the youths involved is conducted by an external non-government provider for the Northern Territory Police Youth Diversion Unit, where all available information is taken into account, with a determination made regarding the suitability for diversion.

The *Youth Justice Act* is currently being reviewed as part of the reform of the youth justice system and in line with recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory. Amendments to the Act are being undertaken in a three phased process over the next 18 months. The review of the Act will include consultation with stakeholders, including proposed amendments being referred to the Social Policy Scrutiny Committee for public consultation