



NATSILS

National Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Legal Services

TRUE JUSTICE FOR OUR PEOPLE

MEDIA RELEASE

New Queensland laws guarantee permanent harm to our children and more dangerous communities

2 December 2024

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (NATSILS) says the dangerous laws introduced in Queensland Parliament last week ignore all evidence about what works to make communities safer and reduce crime.

Karly Warner, Chair of NATSILS says, “By removing detention as a last resort and subjecting children to the same penalties as adults, the Queensland Premier is guaranteeing that more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children will be imprisoned, and stay in prison for longer.

“If these laws go through, they are an endorsement of inflicting devastating harms on our children, families and communities that will take generations to recover from.

“If the government was serious about its commitment to ‘put victims first’, then it would implement evidence-based policy that can reduce crime. These laws have no hope of doing that.

“Locking children up deprives them of access to effective rehabilitation and entrenches them in perpetual cycles of trauma, violence and government neglect that led us here in the first place. We need to support young people, and their families and communities, not harm them.

“Instead of posturing to look ‘tough’, governments have a responsibility to do everything they can to reduce crime. This means investing in prevention and early intervention programs, especially those which are delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisations and are on Country for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, to give them the best chance of success,” says Warner.

ENDS

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