

Participation Information Sheet and Consent Form

Title	Youth Justice Reforms Review
Sponsor	Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (DCYJMA)
Chief Investigator	Mr Robert (Bob) Atkinson AO, APM
Co-Investigators	Toni Craig, Review Lead, DCYJMA; Michaela Roberts, Principal Research and Evaluation Officer, DCYJMA; Carol McNamara, Project Management, Queensland Police Service
Locations	Queensland Wide

1 Introduction

The Youth Justice Reforms Review is being undertaken to deliver advice about whether recent legislative changes are on track to achieving Queensland Government objectives to tackle serious and repeat offending by young people, and to prevent knife crime and hooning.

In February 2021, Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk announced that Mr Bob Atkinson AO, APM would undertake a review of recent changes to the *Youth Justice Act 1992*. The new laws that came into effect in April 2021 are:

- Allow a trial of electronic monitoring for 16 and 17-year-old offenders
- Introduce a presumption against bail for children charged with serious offences
- Allow courts or police to consider the willingness of parents, guardians or other people to support a young person on bail
- Include a new principle in the Youth Justice Act 1992 that asserts that the community should be protected from serious recidivist offenders
- Clarifying that a young person cannot be remanded in custody solely because they do not have adequate accommodation or family support

Legislation changes were also made to prevent hooning and reduce knife related crime. Laws are now in place so that vehicle owners can be held responsible for hooning offences, even if they are not the driver of the vehicle. A trial of metal detecting wands is being delivered at Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise Safe Night Precincts.

To supplement these legislative reforms, \$38.3 million in funding was approved in May 2021 to increase monitoring, supervision and support of young people on bail and provide intensive support to their families.

Mr Atkinson's review includes both the legislative and program reforms. He will be reporting to government on the progress of the new measures at the end of 2021.

This Participant Information and Consent Form explains the review and the processes involved with taking part in the review. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to participate in a survey or interview.

Please read this information carefully. You are welcome to ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about. Before deciding whether or not to take part, you might want to talk about it with a relative, friend or colleague/employer.

You must be aged 18 years or more. Participation is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to.

If you decide you want to take part, you will be asked to sign the consent section of this form. By signing it you are telling us that you:

- Are aged 18 years or more
- Understand what you have read
- Have had any questions satisfactorily answered
- Consent to taking part in the survey or interview
- Consent to the information you provide in the survey or interview being part of the review
- Understand that you are free to withdraw at any time

If you are being interviewed, you will be given a copy of this Participant Information Sheet and signed Consent Form to keep.

If you are completing this survey electronically, you will be asked to give your consent upon commencement of the survey.

2 What is the purpose of this survey/interview?

The purpose of the survey/interview is to seek your views about the youth justice and other reforms (outlined in section 1). A range of different people are being surveyed or interviewed. Your collective views will contribute to findings in Mr Atkinson's report to government.

3 What does participation in this review involve?

Participation in this review will involve either:

- the completion of a survey (online or phone) or
- participation in an interview.

It is envisaged that the survey or interview should take no longer than 20 minutes to complete, however may take a little less or more time depending on what you want to provide.

Participants' responses will help us to better understand how the community and stakeholders view the recent changes to youth justice laws and other laws to improve community safety.

Surveys will be distributed to participants who have indicated their interest in completing the survey electronically.

Interviews will take place at a location, date and time that has been pre-arranged and is suitable for participant/s.

There are no costs associated with participating in this review and participants will not be paid for their time.

4 Do I have to take part in this review?

Your participation is voluntary. You may decline to take part in the survey or you may exit the survey at any time. You are free to decline to answer any question you do not wish to answer for any reason.

Your responses will remain anonymous and all information collected will be handled in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (Qld). We will not be collecting any identifying information such as your name, email address, or IP address.

Information collected may be used to compare results with a similar review in six months' time, but no identifying information such as your name, address or IP number will be used when comparing the results.

If you do decide to take part:

- and you are being interviewed, you will be given a copy of this Participant Information and signed Consent Form to keep, or
- you are completing this survey electronically, you will be asked to give your consent upon commencement of the survey.

5 What are the possible risks and disadvantages of taking part?

Survey and interview questions will be quite general, but there is a small risk that some of the questions might make participants feel uncomfortable.

If any of the survey/interview questions makes you feel uncomfortable, you don't have to answer them, and you will not be asked why. If you don't want to answer a question, you can skip it and go to the next questions, or, during an interview, you can ask the interviewer for a break or stop the interview completely.

If you feel upset and need extra help, you can ask the interviewer where you can seek help.

You can also contact any of the following support agencies for help:

Beyond Blue	1300 22 3646
Lifeline	13 11 14
Headspace	3804 4200
The Salvation Army	1300 363 622

A list of these support agencies is also contained at the end of the survey if you are completing it online.

6 What if I withdraw from this review?

If you do consent to taking part, you may stop the survey or withdraw from the interview at any time. If you decide to withdraw from an interview please notify the interviewer.

There will be no consequences if you choose to withdraw before, during or after the survey or interview.

7 What happens when the review ends?

The Principal Investigator will write a report for the Queensland Government that combines the views of all survey and interview participants along with data from other sources. This report will not disclose any information that might identify individual participants. The Government will decide how it chooses to use the report.

8 Is the review approved?

All research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). This review has been approved by The Prince Charles Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee. This review will be carried out according to the *National Statement of Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*. This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

9 Who do I contact if I want more information?

If you want any further information about this review, or if you have any problems which may be related to participation in this review, you can contact:

- The Review Lead:
Name: Toni Craig
Telephone: 3097 7535
Email: YJReformsReview@cyjima.qld.gov.au

10 Who do I contact if I have a complaint about the review?

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the review, the way it is being conducted or any question about taking part in the review in general, then you may contact:

Reviewing HREC name	The Prince Charles Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee
Postal Address	Building 14, The Prince Charles Hospital Rode Road, Chermside Q 4302
Email	ResearchTPCH@health.qld.gov.au

Consent Form – Participant

Title	Youth Justice Reforms Review
Sponsor	Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (DCYJMA)
Chief Investigator	Mr Robert (Bob) Atkinson AO, APM
Co-Investigators	Toni Craig, Review Lead, DCYJMA; Michaela Roberts, Principal Research and Evaluation Officer, DCYJMA; Carol McNamara, Project Management, Queensland Police Service
Locations	Queensland Wide

Declaration by Interview Participant (Assent)

I have read the Participant Information Sheet or someone has read it to me in a language that I understand.

I understand the purposes, procedures and risks described in the review.

I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I have received.

I freely agree to participate in this review as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the review.

I understand that I will be given a signed copy of this document to keep.

Name of Participant (please print) _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Declaration by Interviewer

I have given a verbal explanation of the review; its procedures and risks and I believe that the participant has understood that explanation.

Name of Interviewer (please print) _____
Signature _____ Date _____

Note: All parties signing the consent section must date their own signature