



# Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group

FAMILY SUPPORT AFTER MURDER INCORPORATED

20 December 2017

Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council  
GPO Box 2360  
BRISBANE QLD 4001  
Email: [info@sentencingcouncil.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@sentencingcouncil.qld.gov.au)

Dear Council

The QLD Homicide Victims Support Group welcomes the opportunity to provide input in relation to penalties imposed on sentence for criminal offences arising from the death of a child.

As this is a preliminary submission, we will provide an overview of suggestions in the hope that our members are able to provide extensive input to the QLD Sentencing Advisory Council as the project moves forward. QHVSG would like to have the opportunity to contribute to this review through being able to provide a focus group for the QSAC to consult.

QHVSG has encouraged all members to provide input directly to you - we also provide the following for consideration;

- QHVSG recognises that **Plea bargaining** is an import tool for the DPP and needs to be maintained. Bargaining needs to be tightly prescribed to legislation, with the judge still having the discretion for no sentencing reduction;
- Sentence reduction for **earlier guilty plea** if this occurs prior to the committal hearing, but should only be a maximum concession of 25%
- Sentence **reduction decreases** to 5% if plea occurs at trial.
- **Serving 30% of a manslaughter sentence is unacceptable** and that this should be raised to a minimum of 75%;
- **Community impact statements** need to be introduced to enable the judge to consider the wider impact of the crime and to empower community members who have been impacted by the crime. Victims are not solely the direct relative – they are our friends, our sporting and work colleagues. They should have the right to state what the impact on their lives is;
- Complete removal of **suspended sentences**;
- **Consecutive sentencing** for all offences;
- Increased use of **Indefinite prison sentences**;
- The death of a child should **not be routinely reduced to manslaughter**. Penalties of life as per murder should apply.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on behalf of our members.

Regards

Tina Good  
QHVSG President

Brett Thompson  
General Manager

Solace House

PO Box 292 Lutwyche, QLD 4030, Australia

Tel: + 617 3857 4744 Fax: + 617 3857 4766

Free Call Number: 1800 774 744 E-mail: [admin@qhvsg.org.au](mailto:admin@qhvsg.org.au)

