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Office of the  
**Commissioner**

**Queensland  
Corrective Services**

30 AUG 2018

Ms Kathleen Payne  
Project Sponsor  
Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council  
GPO Box 2360  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Ms Payne

Thank you for your letter of 31 May 2018 inviting a written submission on the consultation paper *Sentencing for criminal offences arising from the death of a child* (the consultation paper). I appreciate your consultation with Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) on this matter.

As acknowledged in the consultation paper, there is a high level of diversity within the cohort of offenders who commit child homicide, including the circumstances in which these offences were committed. QCS assesses offenders who are sentenced to custody for child homicide offences on their risk and rehabilitation needs. This assists QCS to determine where in the custodial system the offender should be accommodated, and to develop plans to guide the delivery of offender rehabilitation programs and prepare for eventual reintegration into the community.

QCS offers a range of programs to promote rehabilitation. Depending on the identified rehabilitation and risk needs of the offender, these programs include:

- substance abuse and maintenance programs;
- parenting programs;
- sexual offending programs;
- the Positive Futures Program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men, a culturally safe and strengths based approach to engaging participants in conversations and activities relating to Family Violence and substance abuse;
- the Cognitive Self Change Program for moderate to high risk offenders with a history of violent offending; and
- the Resilience Program which aims to provide resilience skills to offenders.

As the consultation paper notes, parole is an important part of offender reintegration into the community. QCS probation and parole officers manage and supervise offenders in the community, which includes liaison with key stakeholders such as child safety officers, the police, parole board, courts and community services to respond to offender issues in order to protect the community and reduce the risk of further offending.

Acknowledging the concerns expressed in the consultation paper regarding victims' satisfaction with communication around the sentencing process, QCS recognises the importance of the QCS Victims Register in ensuring victims have a voice and are kept up-to-date about important events in the sentences of perpetrators of child homicide. QCS proactively promotes the Victims Register through government and non-government organisations.

QCS is committed to continuing to work with criminal justice agencies and service providers to ensure offenders sentenced for child homicide offences are provided with programs and support services to reduce reoffending, and ensuring victims have a voice and are informed about an offender's sentence.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention. If you require further information regarding this matter, please contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
Peter Martin APM  
Commissioner