

**The Hon Michael Daley MP**  
Attorney General



Ms Helen Minnican  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Parliament of NSW  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

By email: [laclerk@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:laclerk@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ms Minnican, 

### **Interim Report of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety Inquiry into Community Safety in Regional and Rural Communities**

Thank you for your letter of 3 June 2025 advising that on 29 May 2025, the Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety (**the Committee**) tabled its community safety in regional and rural communities interim report: Addressing the drivers of youth crime through early intervention (**the Interim Report**). I thank the Committee for its work.

The NSW Government is pleased to note that the June 2025 Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (**BOCSAR**) Recorded Crime Statistics report indicates that youth crime has remained stable statewide in the two years since June 2023 and has decreased in regional NSW over this period. BOCSAR data shows that youth court proceedings in regional NSW declined significantly from June 2023 to June 2025 (down 12% from 5,954 in 2023-24 to 5,220 in 2024-25), due to significantly fewer legal actions for motor vehicle theft, steal from motor vehicle, and malicious damage to property offences. This drop has been particularly pronounced in certain regional areas, including:

- New England and North-West (motor vehicle theft actions down by 67%)
- Far West and Orana (break and enter dwelling, break and enter non-dwelling and car theft down by 65%, 68% and 58% respectively).

Notwithstanding these trends, the NSW Government acknowledges that there remains significant community concern about youth crime. The Government is taking a multifaceted approach to address this issue.

Most recently, on 18 November 2025, the Government introduced the Children (Criminal Proceedings) and Young Offenders Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 to Parliament, which will give NSW Police and the courts stronger tools to interrupt youth offending earlier and keep communities safe, including long-overdue reforms to the way *doli incapax* operates.

The Bill will amend the Children (Criminal Proceedings) Act 1987 to legislate the current common law threshold for rebutting *doli incapax*, with new mandatory considerations for

courts. This will give prosecutors and courts clearer guidance about how to rebut *doli incapax*. The Bill will also amend the *Young Offenders Act 1997* to expand access to important intervention and diversionary measures for children.

The Government will also begin consideration of a voluntary diversionary pathway for children who interact with police and the justice system, as well as a mandatory treatment pathway for high-risk children.

The Bill implements recommendations of an independent review into *doli incapax* commissioned by the NSW Government amid concerns about its operation. The Review was undertaken by State Parole Authority Chair and former Supreme Court Justice, the Honourable Geoffrey Bellew SC, and former NSW Police Deputy Commissioner, Mr Jeffrey Loy APM. The Bill builds on significant legislative reform already undertaken by Government to address community concerns relating to youth crime. In 2024 the NSW Government introduced the *Bail and Crimes Amendment Act 2024* (the Amendment Act) which created the offence of performance crime and introduced a temporary bail test for certain young people charged with certain motor theft, or serious break and enter offences. In April 2025, the *Bail Amendment (Extension of Limitation on Bail in Certain Circumstances) Act 2025* extended the temporary bail test for young people until 1 October 2026.

The Amendment Act also introduced a new offence in the *Crimes Act 1900* targeting offenders of motor theft or break and enter offences who also disseminate material to advertise their involvement in the offending conduct or the act or omission constituting the offence. The provision adds a further 2 years' imprisonment to the maximum penalty available for the underlying motor theft or break and enter offence.

The NSW Government has also made record and sustained investment in early intervention, prevention and youth diversion programs. In March 2024, the NSW Government announced a \$26.2 million package of reforms and initiatives to support community safety and wellbeing, young people at risk of crime, and their families. This includes an investment of \$13.4 million for targeted initiatives in Moree to address crime, support young people and improve community safety including:

- Funding for an additional magistrate temporarily in Moree for six months, with additional funding for Aboriginal Legal Services to ensure cases in Moree are resolved quickly and efficiently.
- A new bail accommodation and support service for young people.
- An Action Plan to optimise local service delivery and ensure funded services are more transparent, accountable and effective. The Service Review has been finalised and the Action Plan is publicly available on the Premier's Department [website](#).
- Investment to improve the accessibility and availability of local after-hours activities.
- Continued NSW Police Force operations in the Moree area to protect the community, including Operation Youth Safe which combines education and early intervention to at-risk children.

The package also included \$12.9 million to fund a range of regional crime prevention initiatives including expansion of Youth Action Meetings, expansion of the Safe Aboriginal

Youth Program, and the continued commissioning of Justice Reinvestment grants. In February 2025, more than \$6 million of further funding was announced to support community safety across Bourke, Moree and Kempsey.

In the NSW Budget 2024-25, the NSW Government has invested \$66.9 million over the forward years for Youth Justice Diversionary Responses, including:

- Youth on Track, which helps young people reduce their risk of re-offending or committing more serious offences
- the Bail and Accommodation Support Service, which coordinates safe places for young people to stay until their court date
- the Broadmeadow Children's Court Project, which provides wraparound supports to young people presenting to the court
- A Place To Go and a Place to Go House, which use contact with police/courts as an opportunity to intervene early by linking them with appropriate community supports and services
- the Rural Residential Rehabilitation Adolescent Alcohol and Other Drugs Service for young people whose use of alcohol and other drugs places them at significant risk of harm
- provision of legal services to Aboriginal young people in detention
- the Short Term Remand Pilot, which provides accommodation through non-government providers for young people on remand
- Domestic and Family Violence Therapy, which delivers culturally appropriate services to prevent reoffending.

In August 2025 the Government announced an investment of \$4.2 million over two years to extend leading-edge pilot programs for young people in the Riverina and Western Sydney at risk of interacting with the youth justice system. This is in addition to the investment of \$1.3 million over two years to continue Keep on Track in Moree, Narrabri, Armidale and Tamworth.

Most recently, on 7 November, the Government announced more than \$23 million in targeted funding to address youth crime and improve community safety across regional NSW. This investment focuses on two key priorities: breaking the cycle of reoffending among young people on bail and preventing at-risk youth from entering the justice system in the first place. This included:

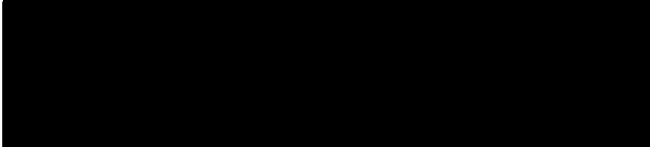
- \$12 million to continue place-based responses in Moree and expand responses in Tamworth and Kempsey
- \$6.3 million to provide intensive bail supervision and support for young people.
- \$5 million for a new Community Safety Investment Fund

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All of the recommendations of the Interim Report are noted by Government. I note that the Committee is due to table its Final Report in early 2026. Government will further consider each recommendation upon receipt of the Final Report of this inquiry. This will allow consideration in context of this inquiry and other related work including the *doli incapax* review.

Thank you for writing to me.

Sincerely,



**Michael Daley MP**  
**Attorney General**

27 NOV 2025

CC: The Hon. Chris Minns, MP, Premier  
The Hon. Jihad Dib, MP, Minister for Youth Justice  
The Hon. Kate Washington, MP, Minister for Families and Communities, Minister for Disability Inclusion  
The Hon. Anoulack Chanthivong, MP, Minister for Corrections  
The Hon. Yasmin Catley, MP, Minister for Police and Counter-terrorism  
The Hon. Prue Car, MP, Minister for Education and Early Learning  
The Hon. Jodie Harrison, MP, Minister for Women, DV and Sexual Assault  
The Hon. Rose Jackson, MLC, Minister for Homelessness, Mental Health and Youth  
The Hon. David Harris, MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty  
The Hon. Steven Whan, MP, Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education  
The Hon. Ryan Park, MP, Minister for Health

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