1. In February 2018, Mr Bob Atkinson AO, APM was commissioned to provide advice on the progress of the Queensland Governments youth justice reforms, next steps, other measures to reduce recidivism, and recommendations for youth detention from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.
2. In June 2018 a Report on Youth Justice was published which makes 77 recommendations that address specific issues relating to youth offending and youth justice responses, including development of a Youth Justice Strategy.
3. A Government Response to the Report on Youth Justice has been prepared. Of the 77 recommendations, 36 are noted as ‘accepted’, 24 noted as ‘accepted in principle’, and 17 ‘for further consideration’.
4. The Working Together, Changing the Story - Youth Justice Strategy 2019–2023 (the Strategy) provides a framework that will strengthen prevention, intervention, restoration and rehabilitation, including a focus on engaging families and communities.
5. Community consultation occurred to inform the Strategy. Consultation mechanisms included face-to-face discussions, workshops, community and expert forums, online surveys and polls submissions.
6. The Strategy commits the government to reduce offending, reoffending, remand and detention of young people and over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people by working together with the Queensland community to change the stories of vulnerable children and young people, to steer them away from offending to a positive future.
7. The focus areas identified in the Strategy are:
* intervene early
* keep children out of court
* keep children out of custody
* reduce reoffending.
1. An Action Plan will be developed to put the Strategy into action.
2. Cabinet approved the Working Together, Changing the Story – Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023 and its public release.
3. Cabinet approved the Government response to the Report on Youth Justice and its public release.
4. Cabinet approved the consultation summary report and its public release.
5. *Attachments*
* [Working Together, Changing the Story - Youth Justice Strategy 2019–2023](Attachments/Strategy.PDF)
* [Government response to the Report on Youth Justice](Attachments/Response.pdf)
* [Consultation Summary Report](Attachments/Summary.PDF)