

**Submission  
No 93**

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY IN REGIONAL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES**

**Name:** Mr Jaxon Swift  
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During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, my home was broken into by a group of young offenders. I live with a medical condition known as Marfan Syndrome and this condition greatly impacts my heart, eyes, skeleton and lungs. To have my home broken into and be held at knife-point was a horrific experience which had a real impact on me physically and mentally. I am writing this submission to highlight that these kids don't care who they harm. They are breaking into houses for fun and have zero consideration for what physical, mental or financial harm they cause. Not only was my heart put under unnecessary stress, but it was later discovered that the offenders were carrying the COVID-19 virus at the time. Because of my medical condition, I was considered a high risk individual and had been isolating for months to protect myself. Thankfully I did not contract the virus, but it just goes to show the number of different ways that these kids are putting people at risk.

In my case, majority of the offenders were identified, however, with the way our court system works at the moment in relation to minors, this meant nothing. There were no consequences at all for these kids. Meetings were arranged for some of them to confront their actions with police, myself and others they impacted, however, in the end they simply chose not to show up.

Something needs to change. These kids need to be helped, they to understand the harm they are causing and they need consequences.