



Parliament NSW Legislative Council
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 2 - HEALTH
INQUIRY INTO EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND APPROPRIATE DELIVERY OF OUTPATIENT AND
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN NEW SOUTH WALES
HEARING – TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2024
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

1. What are your observations regarding the appropriateness or effectiveness of police involvement with young people? Can you provide feedback regarding the quality, impact of, or rate of these interactions?

Thank you for the question. We do not feel that we have any current relevant substantial evidence directly in relation to this question.

We are however very aware of the prevalence of youth crime, particularly in regional areas, and a recent spike in youth crime in our region of the Far North Coast of NSW, and the significant additional strain this places on our police resources. We would however like to highlight to the committee the well evidenced correlation between youth crime and trauma and disadvantage. There is a pressing need for an increase in early intervention work targeted at disengaged young people in disadvantaged communities in order to prevent cascading criminal activity. Human Nature specialises in effective tailored therapeutic interventions for young people who are otherwise falling through the gaps of social support systems, and with adequate funding could scale up our work to further reduce the unnecessary involvement of vulnerable young people with police and the justice system, as well as provide a demonstrated model for other regions facing similar issues.

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