

From: 
To: [justiceinquiry](#)
Subject: Remanding a child. Review of high remand rates
Date: Sunday, 13 June 2021 7:02:25 PM

To :Legislative committee reviewing remand numbers

Good morning ,

It concerns me as a Bail Justice I had no option but to remand a ten year old child over the Queens birthday long weekend .That meant the child was held in remand four nights at Parkville .Something I desperately tried to avoid .

The actual offences would not have warranted four nights of incarceration.That made it even more stressful to me in the hearing decision making process, with minimal options .

I won't go into the details, but on Friday night when I conducted the hearing one of my main options was not available to this child. The Dandenong children's court was not open on Saturday ,the next child hearing was Tuesday , a completely unacceptable outcome and an option I would have preferred to be available .

For reasons Iam unwilling to explain ,even bailing the child to Tuesday's children's court was not possible .

We need magistrates to be available for Child hearings on Saturday . The sitting Saturday adult magistrate should conduct child hearings as a matter of priority . Because of the vulnerability of a child in remand, a magistrates case load has to allow for special need child cases on Saturday .I would not think the child numbers would be that high over a weekend.

It concerns me that I had to make this decision , adding to the remand statistics and the mental trauma of the child in remand . The Victorian Government is currently reviewing the 'tough on crime ' remand incarceration rates and I believe vulnerable accused children and BJs should have more options available to them .

Saturday magistrate child hearings should be implemented .

