

## Inquiry into Victoria's criminal justice system

Ms Judy Li

**Organisation Name:**  
**Your position or role:**

### SURVEY QUESTIONS

**What best describes your interest in our inquiry**

Concerned citizen

**Drag the statements below to reorder them. In order of priority, please rank the themes you believe are most important for this inquiry into Victoria's criminal justice system to consider::**

Strategies for reducing reoffending (e.g. addressing risk factors like poor mental health),Policing,The experiences of victims of crimes in navigating the justice system,Alternatives to imprisonment (e.g. treatment programs or supervision orders),Rates of imprisonment,Rates of criminal activity,Specific prisoner cohorts (e.g. youth or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders),Judicial appointment (e.g. guidelines and selection processes for appointing judges),The level of training and expertise of judicial officers (e.g. expertise in sentencing),Number of people on remand (awaiting trial)

### YOUR SUBMISSION

**Submission:**

My submission is regarding the abhorrent failure of the justice system to protect members of the public, like Courtney Herron, from becoming a victim of a completely preventable crime. The defendant is homeless, a drug user, has a history of violence, a prior criminal conviction for violence towards women, and mental health issues. This is not someone who should be released back into the community. This is someone who should be treated at a secured psychiatric facility until a trained psychiatric team deems him as no longer a threat to himself or others. Courtney and her family should not have had to pay for the negligence of the justice system or the lack of priority funding the government provides to mental health treatment, homelessness aids and protecting the lives of women.

The committee should consider ensuring that criminals with a mental health illness are examined by qualified psychiatrists and psychologists and deemed not a risk to themselves or others before being considered for released, supervised or not. I have a number of mental illnesses myself, so my comment is not to further marginalise people with mental illnesses, but I know from experience that only a qualified psychiatric team of psychiatrists and psychologists can make the assessment for someone with a mental illness.

Secondly, people who suffer from homelessness should be provided with accommodation if they are unable to find suitable accommodation to support them for the entire duration of their supervision/probation period. Not only would a person who is homeless less able to focus on their rehabilitation, how can the court ensure that they can be located and supervised adequately if they don't have a permanent address?

This really isn't rocket science. But it is life or death of someone.

### FILE ATTACHMENTS

**File1:**  
**File2:**  
**File3:**