

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 March 2017 2:46 PM  
**To:** Youth Justice System in Victoria Inquiry  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into Youth Justice Centres in Victoria

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Youth Justice Centres in Victoria

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**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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Over the years and currently, many members of the Kyneton ALP Branch have lived in Malmsbury which is only 12km north of Kyneton. During that period several branch members worked at what was then the Malmsbury Youth Training Centre. Indeed three former members filled the role of CEO at the Malmsbury Centre.

Until very recently the people of Malmsbury did not regard the detainees at the centre as a threat. Instead the centre and its youth residents were seen as a valued part of the community. Many young detainees from the Centre worked with locals on community projects and the community saw both them and the Centre as an asset. They received sound education and training and used that training in their community works.

It seems that the current problems at Malmsbury have their origins in its conversion to a secured facility and with the inclusion of more serious and violent offenders among the detainees.

The Kyneton ALP believes that the prime goal of youth justice centres should be rehabilitation and education and training by professional staff in the skills needed to become part of the general community on release. We understand that the rate of recidivism of Malmsbury detainees in the past has been low. Certainly the detainees were not regarded as a safety threat by the residents of the town.

The Branch recognises that times and circumstances have changed, but it also believes that a significant proportion of young offenders can be rehabilitated. In the current difficult circumstances the goal of rehabilitation of youth justice centre detainees seems to have disappeared from discussions. This should not be the case.

The Kyneton ALP urges the Inquiry Committee to put rehabilitation of young detainees at the centre of its recommendations.

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File1:

File2:

File3: