

From: Inquiry into Youth Justice Centres in Victoria [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 12 April 2017 7:19 AM
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

Mr and Mrs Phillip and Therese Watts

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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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To the Committee,
We have lived in Malmsbury for nearly thirty years and before that were born and raised in Kyneton. We know people who have worked at the Youth Justice Centre over the years and we know people who have been personally affected by youths who have escaped from the centre. We have always understood that the centre was about giving young offenders a chance to improve their education, and to give them the best chance to re-enter their families and communities with better prospects for the future. However, of recent times the events at the centre have affected locals negatively. There are constant calls on the local fire brigade and we know that staff have been regularly threatened and injured while working there. Locals know a lot about what goes on there because it is right in our town. We do not want the place to get any bigger and we are concerned about the type of offender living with us. It is all very well for other areas in Victoria to refuse to have a justice centre near them, we already have one - and we are a very small village. We have minimal community facilities and infrastructure for ourselves but bear the burden of a prison. The government needs to ensure the safety of locals and workers as a priority and keep the community informed about any proposed changes at the centre. We are also extremely concerned about the violent and recidivist offenders in the justice system and believe that prison has become their only option. There is obviously not enough being done very early in the lives of children who are living in families and in localities where they are at high risk. Earlier intervention may see less need for places like the Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre. Thank you for listening to our concerns,
Phillip and Therese Watts

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- File1:
- File2:
- File3:

