

POLICY BRIEFING

Law & Order
Enough is Enough



Libertarian

THE SYSTEM IS BROKEN. HERE'S HOW WE FIX IT.

Victoria has a crime problem. You know it. We know it. The question is why nothing ever gets done about it.

The answer is uncomfortable: the system isn't failing. It's working exactly as designed. It's designed to protect criminals — not you.

The current justice system operates on the belief that criminals are victims of society. Poverty, trauma, or disadvantage explains — and in practice, excuses — criminal behaviour. Repeat offenders get released on bail. They reoffend. They're released again. The real victims — you, your family, your neighbours — pay the price.

The Libertarian Party of Victoria is done with that. Here's what we'll do instead.



1 THE REVOLVING DOOR STOPS HERE

BAIL REFORM: TWO STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT

The court keeps letting dangerous people go. We will change that.

For serious violent offenders:

- First offence: bail only if the court is genuinely confident they won't hurt anyone again. Not "probably won't." Actually confident.
- Second serious violent offence: no bail. Full stop. If you've already been given a chance and you hurt someone again, you don't get another one.

For repeat property offenders:

Victoria Police told us that just 5,400 people are responsible for nearly half of all crime in this state. Half of all crime. Five thousand people.

Those people need to be dealt with differently. We'll flip the default: repeat property offenders have to make the case for why they should be released, not the other way around.

2 JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED

FAST-TRACKING SERIOUS CASES

Right now, serious criminal cases drag on for years. That's not fair to victims. It's not even fair to the accused. Dangerous people spend long periods either in limbo, or worse, back on the street reoffending while their case crawls through the system.

We'll create a fast-track for serious violent cases: dedicated resources, fixed timelines, no more endless adjournments. Cases get resolved. People know where they stand. Victims stop waiting.



3

BREAKING THE CYCLE

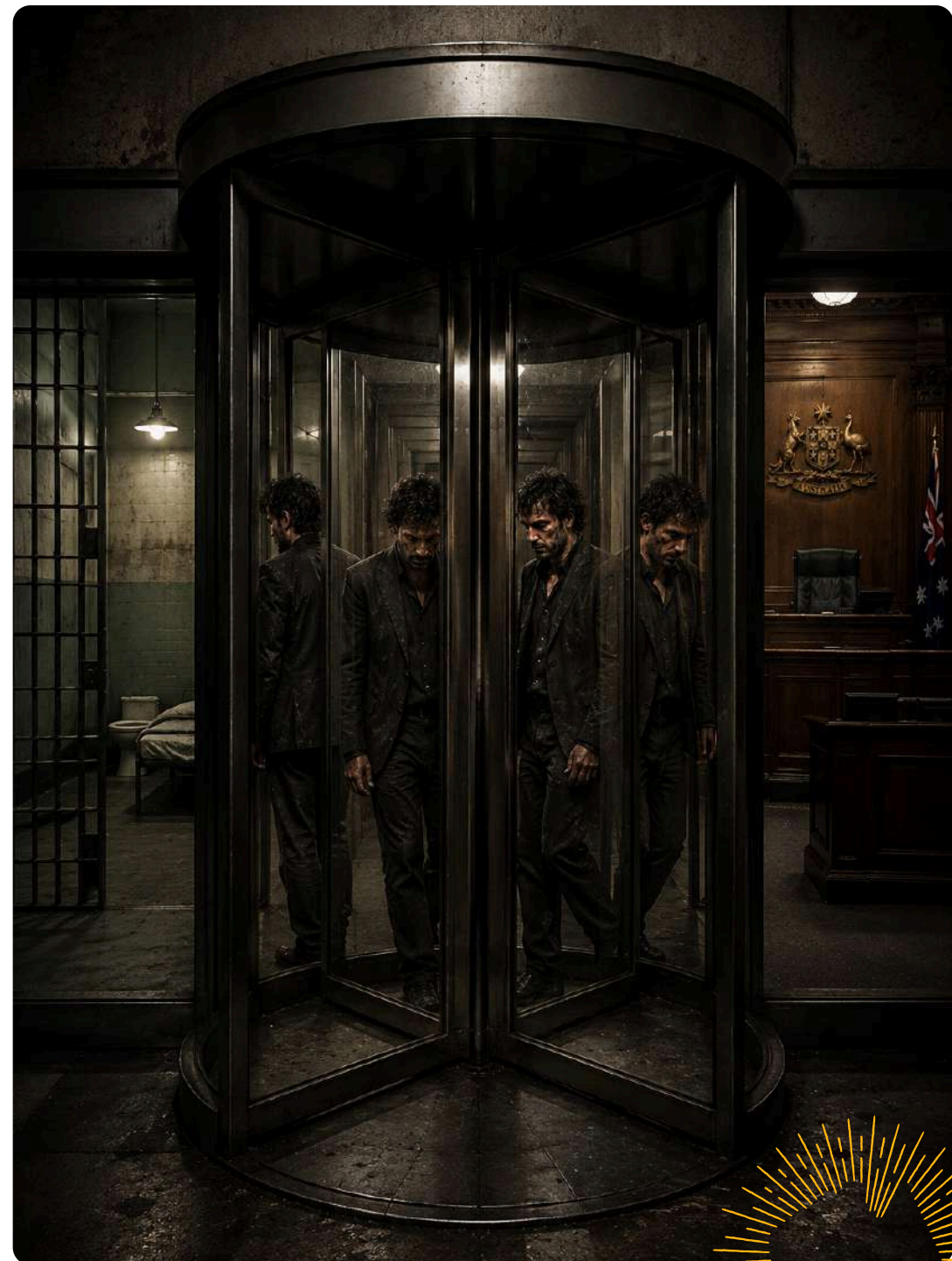
A SMARTER TOOL FOR REPEAT OFFENDERS

For many repeat offenders, prison alone doesn't work. Not because consequences don't matter, they absolutely do, but because the revolving door of prison → release → reoffend is driven by addiction, mental illness, and homelessness. The current system doesn't fix any of those things. It just cycles people through and calls it justice.

We'll introduce a Persistent Offender Intervention Order, a highly supervised, tightly managed order that gives courts a real tool to break the cycle:

- Mandatory appointments
- Priority access to treatment
- Regular court check-ins
- Consequences for non-compliance ,automatic escalation

This is not soft on crime. It's smart on crime. The goal is stopping the behaviour, not just punishing it and waiting for it to happen again.



4

CUT ORGANISED CRIME OFF AT THE KNEES

This is where most parties won't go. We will.

THE TOBACCO WARS

Nearly 300 arson attacks in Australia in recent years. Murders. Houses burnt down. An innocent woman killed when arsonists hit the wrong address.

All of it driven by the billions of dollars in the black market for cigarettes, a market that only exists because we tax legal cigarettes so heavily that criminal gangs can undercut them and make a fortune.

You can't police your way out of a billion-dollar profit margin. You have to remove the profit.

We'll push the federal government hard to cut tobacco excise. Take away the margin. Take away the motive.

THE CANNABIS MARKET

The illegal cannabis market is worth around a billion dollars a year in Victoria alone. Every dollar of that goes to criminal gangs, not schools, not hospitals, not you.

Cannabis prohibition hasn't stopped people using it. It's just handed a billion-dollar business to criminals. We'll legalise cannabis for adults, with sensible rules around age and public use. The money stays in Victoria. The criminals lose a market.

VAPING

Almost every vape sold in Australia today is illegal. The entire market is controlled by organised crime, because the government made legal vaping harder to access than cigarettes. That's not a public health win. That's an unintended gift to criminals.

Countries that have embraced legal vaping are seeing smoking rates fall faster than ours. New Zealand actively promotes it. Sweden's daily smoking rate is under 5%. We're going backwards.

We'll push to legalise vaping for adults.



HEROIN METH AND COCAINE

The heroin trade in Victoria alone is estimated to be worth around \$200 million a year. Every dollar of illegal drug money funds misery and crime. Expanding treatment options, including clinically proven alternatives for people managing addiction, reduces demand for illegal drugs and cuts criminals' revenue.

CFMEU CORRUPTION

It's estimated that corruption on the government's Big Build projects cost Victorian taxpayers over \$15 billion. Queensland launched a Royal Commission. Victoria refused.

We'll order a Royal Commission. People responsible will be held accountable.



5 YOUR RIGHT TO DEFEND YOURSELF

When someone breaks into your home, police are at best minutes away if they make it. You have seconds. Right now, Victorian law may do more to protect the person breaking in than the person who lives there.

LEGALISE PEPPER SPRAY

It's legal in most of the world. Women carry it. Older people carry it. It's a simple, non-lethal way to protect yourself. The Northern Territory has already started a trial.

We'll legalise pepper spray in Victoria. Immediately.

CASTLE LAW: YOUR HOME IS YOUR CASTLE

In the UK, you have the legal right to defend your home. The law only draws the line at conduct that is 'grossly disproportionate.'

In Victoria, you can face legal consequences for defending yourself in your own home. That's backward.

We'll update the law so that reasonable self-defence in your home is protected, not punished.



6

VICTIMS FIRST

The justice system talks about victims. It rarely centres them.

We'll assign a dedicated Victim Case Officer to every serious criminal matter, someone whose job is to keep you informed, make sure you're heard, and ensure you don't get lost in the system's paperwork.

You deserve to know what's happening in your own case. That shouldn't be a revolutionary idea.

7

RESTORE VICTORIA POLICE

Victoria Police has over 1,000 unfilled positions right now. Recruitment isn't keeping up. People have stopped reporting crimes like retail theft because they know no one will come.

We'll treat police recruitment as an emergency. The goal: fill those positions and restore safe staffing levels within two years. A key to retaining good police is to give them a justice system that supports police work instead of frustrating police work.

8

EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW

The law should treat everyone the same. Equal punishment for equal crimes, regardless of background, identity, or circumstance. Personal circumstances should inform access to treatment and rehabilitation. They should never be used to reduce a sentence or excuse criminal behaviour.

A fair justice system is a consistent one.



A SAFER VICTORIA IS POSSIBLE.

The two major parties have had decades to fix this. They haven't.
One is too ideologically committed to treating criminals as victims.
The other is too weak to push back.

THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF VICTORIA HAS A PLAN.

It puts you — not the system, not the offenders — at the centre.

THE CORE PROBLEM

- **The system is rigged wrong:** it treats criminals as victims, so repeat offenders keep getting released
- **Just 5,400 people:** cause nearly half of all crime in Victoria, the system keeps letting them go
- **Real victims:** are left uninformed, unsupported, and forgotten by the process

BAIL REFORM: TWO STRIKES

Violent offenders:

- **First serious violent offence:** bail only if court is genuinely confident of no reoffending, high bar
- **Second serious violent offence:** no bail, mandatory detention, full stop

Repeat property offenders:

- **Presumption against bail:** they must argue for release, not the other way around

FAST-TRACK JUSTICE

- **Serious violent cases:** fixed timelines, dedicated resources, no endless adjournments
- **The goal:** cases resolved, not dragged out while offenders reoffend on bail or rot on remand

BREAKING THE CYCLE: PERSISTENT OFFENDERS

- **New Persistent Offender Intervention Order (POIO):** court-supervised, mandatory appointments, priority treatment access
- **Regular court check-ins:** compliance rewarded, breaches escalate automatically
- **Modelled on Drug Courts:** independently evaluated to reduce reoffending



STRANGLING ORGANISED CRIME

- **Legalise cannabis for adults:** removes ~\$1 billion/yr from criminal gangs
- **Legalise vaping for adults:** almost the entire vape market is currently run by organised crime
- **Cut tobacco excise (federal):** ends the Tobacco Wars, 300 arson attacks, multiple murders, driven by black market profit
- **Expand heroin treatment:** undermines the ~\$200M/yr illegal heroin market
- **Royal Commission into CFMEU:** estimated \$15B+ in taxpayer losses to corruption on Big Build, Victoria refused one; we won't

THE RIGHT TO DEFEND YOURSELF

- **Legalise pepper spray:** immediately, non-lethal, widely legal globally, especially important for women
- **Castle Law:** reasonable self-defence in your own home becomes legally protected, not punished

When someone breaks in, police are minutes away. You have seconds.

VICTIMS FIRST

- **Victim Case Officer:** assigned to every serious criminal matter, keeps victims informed and heard
- **Not new bureaucracy:** reorganises existing resources around clear ownership and accountability

RESTORE VICTORIA POLICE

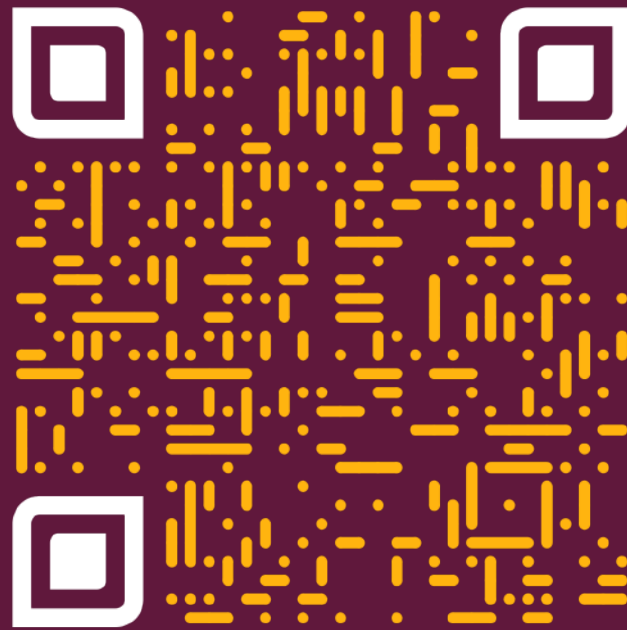
- **1,000+ vacancies:** filled within two years, treated as an emergency, not a footnote

EQUAL JUSTICE

- **Same sentence, same crime:** background may inform rehabilitation access, it must never reduce punishment
- **Sentencing reform:** legislative change to close the gap between intention and practice on the Bugmy principle

“Just 5,400 people cause nearly half of all crime in Victoria. We know who they are. The current system keeps letting them go. We won't.”

<https://vic.libertarians.org.au/policies>



Our Policies



Libertarian