

Inquiry into Youth Justice

1. Incidents increased at Malmesbury YJ Centre when it was no longer an OPEN REHABILITATION Centre. The use of the MYJC changed after the Major Building Project was completed, it became a PUNISHMENT Centre. Residents felt this change, Malmesbury Village made the daily News on radio, T.V and News Papers. Malmesbury YJ.C now housed v. bad youth and our reputation changed ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{all} ~~the~~ of Victorians. These boys were bad, they were to be feared, in many peoples view.
 2. Before this, residents felt safe. Previously Youth from the Centre were seen mowing under supervision at the Cemetery etc. Staff were local. The secure lockup with high security caused residents to fear for the safety of themselves & their children.
 3. Today children 6 - 16 years old can be suspended from school. The increase in youth in YJ Centres maybe related. Does the Govt have figures of this? Is this increase a result in Govt changes in funding Schools and other childrens support programs?
- A.
(a) Can our society plan better pathways and take better care of the young? All children do not have the same care and opportunity. Poor children are aware they are second rate, at an early age. Everything costs money today. Without money to play sport, children cannot set up a game without the means to do so. Cars own the roads used by previous generations, and parks, bikeways etc are not planned around childrens needs. Have we given children little hope of believing in themselves? Hence the increase in youth offending and re-offending as an option, when their there is too much or too little in their lives? Govt. & Community generally are not understood as useful to young people out of school and out of work, without family or community supports.
- Note: Malmesbury Children do not have a tennis Court that works, or good bike tracks to take them safely about.

4b) young people get homesick out of their community away from family and friends. Management may find Malmsbury Village useful in youth learning about our community. A country Community, a climate that paints the ground white with frost and a sky with different stars, ones that can be seen. City communities lose stars ~~within~~ ^{within} the street lighting. Also if life in the MYJC offers a community spirit, separation ^{seems} ^{about} ^{this} ^{no} ^{what} ^{is} will be a good experience, they'll take with them.

5. —
6. —

7. The Dept. of Health + Human Services must be heavily involved. Many youth are children.

8. As a resident of Malmsbury the issue for me is how we have been 'hood-winked' by both Governments. The M. Youth Training Centre has fitted seamlessly into our Village for 50 yrs. The old Raceway blended with the street scene and the Centre provided work for locals, support in the community eg. mowing crew etc and good outcomes for many youth. ~~who~~ ^{who} are gainfully employed, good citizens today. Rehabilitation worked. Why do we not think it still works today? We are being lead to believe boys are past being rehabilitated, today, they are to be feared, and housed in BIGGER, HARSHER Lockup Centres. The new Bigger Harsher Centre is the gate-way to Malmsbury Village. ~~It says~~ ^{It says} ~~is~~ ^{is} bad by its ~~vision~~ ^{vision}. We watched ~~them~~ ^{them} being cut-down fence put up, and ugly tanks appearing near the *Smoking Car-park* ^{previously} visitors asked where the Centre was, in Malmsbury now it ~~grabs~~ ^{grabs} ~~all~~ ^{all}!

* Not good for M'burys children or other families passing through. ~~None~~

8. How and why have the 'Powers that Be' been so
thoughtless regarding the Surrounding Communities?
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The Malmesbury Youth Justice Centre is an issue far
more resented than those in the Malmesbury Village.
Macedon Ranges Shire, Mt Alexander Shire and Hepburn
Shire residents border Malmesbury, they question
their security and safety now. (the bad boys) are
here. Is Malmesbury still a good place to visit?

Today I went to photograph our new Gateway to
Malmesbury, and was told by the security
guards while in the car outside on the road,
I could not take photos to put with this.

He took the details of the car I was in.

So please those of you who are the "Powers that

Be" do come and see for yourselves

How uninviting Malmesbury Village looks now,
and I urge that Govt. think early and

thoroughly whether BIGGER + HARSHER is Best

and please do fix up the 'Plot at the

Gateway to Malmesbury" Thank you for
inviting me to participate.

In hope of a good outcome:

Ms. Evelyn Mullenger (Resident)

10-04-2017