

Storm Louise Quinn, you have pleaded guilty to taking part in an affray. The crime of taking part in an affray involves taking part in a fight in a public place and causing terror to people who are nearby. On 2 October 2023, you were at the Eastlands Shopping Centre at Rosny at about 3.45pm with a group of people, including Izac King and Danny Crawford. There was another group of people at Eastlands which included Krista Bryan and Louis Taylor-Lawdorn. It was the first day of school holidays and there were a number of people at the shopping centre, including school aged children, their parents and older people. People in both of your groups were pushing prams with small children in them.

The incident commenced with an exchange of words between Krista Bryan and Izac King. You became involved in this verbal argument. You and Ms Bryan then commenced to physically fight each other. You exchanged punches and you both fell to the ground. Members of the public were forced to flee the immediate area into nearby stores to avoid becoming involved in the altercation. Both of you continued to throw punches.

When you broke apart, you continued to exchange words as did the others in the groups. Danny Crawford and Mr King then stepped forward and punched Mr Taylor-Lawdorn. They exchanged punches with one another, resulting in Mr Taylor-Lawdorn falling to the ground. Mr King disengaged from that fight, but Mr Crawford and Mr Taylor-Lawdorn continued throwing punches and kicking and pulling at each other.

While that was happening, you, Mr King and Ms Bryan became involved trying to break up the fight. You took hold of Mr Taylor-Lawdorn by the hair and pulled him across the ground. Mr King punched Mr Taylor-Lawdon and tried to pull him away from Mr Crawford. Ms Bryan pulled Mr King and punched him to the chest. Mr King then pulled Mr Taylor-Lawdon off Mr Crawford and then Mr Crawford regained his feet and held up a knife. Mr Crawford was standing in a threatening posture saying words to the effect of "I am going to kill you".

Ms Bryan yelled at Mr Crawford to put the knife away. Centre security observed the knife and were fearful that someone was about to be stabbed. Other members of the public also reported seeing the knife and heard that there was a knife and were scared about what might happen. Mr Crawford eventually put the knife away back into his pocket.

You and Ms Bryan again became engaged in a fight with one another, trading punches to the face and head area. After ceasing momentarily, your fight recommenced. You exchanged blows and pulled each other's hair. You took hold of a nearby trolley and pushed it into Ms Bryan, pushing her backwards. You continued to yell at one another, tried to approach each other but were stopped by members of your respective groups and security. You all continued to scream and yell abuse at each other as you left the centre by different exits.

The altercation took place over the course of approximately seven minutes. Multiple people called 000 requesting police assistance. At least 20 people of all ages were standing around while the fighting took place. This included children who were screaming and crying. Multiple shop owners were forced to erect their security doors to protect themselves and their customers. The altercation was captured on CCTV from the centre, body worn camera from centre security and mobile phones from a number of witnesses. You and your co-accused were all identifiable from this footage. I have viewed that footage. The altercation was clearly terrifying for those

unfortunate enough to witness it. You personally were engaged in three separate episodes of fighting with Ms Bryan, as well as involving yourself in the altercation between Mr Crawford and Mr Taylor-Lawdorn. The CCTV footage shows that you expressed some amusement during the course of the incident. You were arrested on 7 November 2023 and declined an interview.

You have limited prior convictions. You have one prior matter of common assault which relates to you spitting in a person's face about a year prior to this incident. You pleaded guilty to that charge and you were fined and convicted. You were 20 years old at the time of this offence. You are now 22 years old. You are a single parent to two young children and are expecting your third child.

I was told by prosecution that after you were indicted for this offence, you came across one of the security guards involved in this incident, Mr Alexandrou, and spoke with him. You apologised for your conduct and indicated that you were pleading guilty. Mr Alexandrou said that the interaction with you was a positive one. This is to your credit. Your interaction with Mr Alexandrou likely reflects the changes you have made in your life that have been outlined to me by your counsel, Ms Cooper.

I am told that at the time of this offending, you were associating with people who were a poor influence on you. At that time, you had independent accommodation but you were forced to leave it in order to distance yourself from those undesirable influences. Your home, which was otherwise stable, had become unsafe and you found it difficult to disengage from those associates while living there. Since then, you have been residing between your mother's and grandmother's houses with your children. From what I was told, the accommodation with your mother is very cramped.

According to your counsel, you were exposed to a deal of violence as a child. You were also exposed to adults behaving in an unsafe fashion around you, including by using drugs. At one stage, you were removed from your mother's care and placed with your grandmother. You were expelled from school in grade 8 and you were not successful in re-engaging with education. You had your first child at 17. Your relationship with the father of your first two children was marred by family violence. It appears that violence has been a feature in your past and perhaps normalised to some extent. This may explain your reactions and your willingness to engage in the fighting on this occasion.

The three others with whom you were jointly charged have all been sentenced. Ms Bryan and Mr Crawford both pleaded guilty. Ms Bryan was sentenced to three months' imprisonment, wholly suspended for a period of twelve months subject to the condition that she submit to the supervision of a probation officer for a period of twelve months. She was 23 years old at the time of the offence and had few prior matters, having been dealt with, without conviction, for disorderly conduct and destroy property in 2019. She was sentenced on the basis that she participated in the affray on more than one occasion, but also that she had demonstrated a level of responsibility afterwards by remaining behind and waiting for police to arrive.

Mr Crawford was also sentenced for the offence of being unlawfully armed in a public place. He was 22 years old at the time of his offending. He had a number of prior convictions as an adult for various offences of dishonesty, violence, drug and driving matters. At the time of his involvement in the affray, he had not received a sentence of suspended or actual imprisonment. He had also been sentenced for offences committed after his involvement in the affray, which

included breach of bail, breach of police family violence order, three counts of unlawfully possessing a dangerous article in a public place and possession of a firearm. It was noted he has a moderate intellectual disability and was being assessed for funding from the NDIS. He was sentenced to a period of nine months' imprisonment, wholly suspended for a period of 18 months on his release from custody. The suspension of his sentence was also subject to conditions that he be supervised by a probation officer.

Mr King pleaded not guilty and was found guilty after a trial. He was not entitled to the mitigating benefit of a plea of guilty. He had a number of prior matters and had previously been sentenced to a period of suspended imprisonment. He was sentenced to a period of four months' imprisonment, which was partially suspended.

Engaging in violent brawling in any public place is a serious matter. In this case, the fighting took place in a busy shopping centre in the presence of a number of adults and children, including children in your group. Such conduct has no place in our community. Members of the public ought to be able to go shopping and business owners ought to be able to conduct their lawful commercial activities without being subjected to such distressing conduct. General deterrence is an important sentencing consideration. It is necessary to make clear to others, who might be minded to engage in this way, that such conduct will not be tolerated.

I take into account your age at the time of the offending and your personal circumstances. I also take into account your plea of guilty. It was not an early plea, but the State accepts that it was not necessary to prepare for a trial in respect of your participation in these events. I note you spent a day in custody when you were arrested after I issued a warrant when you failed to appear. I consider that your culpability is similar to that of Ms Bryan. You both had limited prior matters and pleaded guilty.

A sentence of imprisonment is warranted in the circumstances. I have determined that it is appropriate that it be wholly suspended.

Ms Quinn, you are convicted of the charge of taking part in an affray. You are sentenced to three months' imprisonment, wholly suspended for 18 months on condition that you do not commit a further offence punishable by imprisonment, and are subject to the supervision of a probation officer during the period the order is in force.

As the suspended sentence is conditional on your supervision by a probation officer, the order is subject to the core conditions of a community correction order which are set out at s 42AO(b) to (f) of the *Sentencing Act*. They will be provided to you in writing. They include that you must report to a probation officer at the office of Community Corrections in Hobart by 4:00pm on 2 January 2026, you must submit to supervision and comply with the directions given by your probation officer, you must not leave Tasmania without permission, and you must notify of any change of address. In addition to the core conditions, the order will also include the special condition that you must, during the 18 month operational period of the supervision order, submit to the supervision of a Community Corrections officer as required by that officer. It is important that you understand that if you breach the suspended sentence by committing another offence punishable by imprisonment, you will be required to serve the term unless that is unjust.