

**From:**  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Submission idea - Evacuation Centres  
**Date:** Wednesday, 4 May 2022 10:04:48 AM

---

As a resident of the Ballina Shire I experienced the recent floods in my community. Although my family were fortunate enough not to require accomodation in an evacuation centre, I have heard nothing but horror stories coming out of them. Examples of confronting experiences included children witnessing people openly taking drugs, needles discarded on the floors, people having sex. On the latter point I have also heard of vulnerable people being sexually assaulted and/or exploited OPENLY in the centres.

I submit that future evacuation centres automatically include provision for a 24 hour police presence in the centres, even if this requires police being brought in from other parts of the State.

I want to emphasise that the people running the evacuation centres did a heroic job with very limited resources but they were not equipped to deal with the criminal and/or aggressive behaviour that inevitably found its way into the centres. The thought of people who have experienced the trauma of losing everything in a life threatening natural disaster having to seek shelter in dangerous, confronting and frightening environments such as the evacuation centres at Lismore and Wardell is beyond imagining.

I hope some consideration will be given to improving the safety of evacuation centre environments.

Regards,