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Submission 112

BY:.....

Richard McDonald

16 October 2002

Ms Gillian Gould  
Secretary  
House of Representatives  
Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms Gould

**Re: Inquiry into crime in the community: victims, offenders and fear of crime**

I am more than pleased to have the opportunity to make a submission and comment on "Crime in the community: victims, offenders and fear of crime". I believe that my submission falls within the terms of reference for this inquiry. I am prepared to testify before the Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs if required and I can provide extensive oral and documentary evidence to support the serious allegations contained within this submission.

My motivation for providing this submission is born from not only my moral obligation to expose corruption within the New South Wales Police ("NSWP"), but a paramount duty to do so in the public interest.

Thriving within the NSWP is a corrupt management culture existing through fear, intimidation, lies, deceit, nepotism and cronyism. A corrupt management culture that exists and operates to destroy the careers and lives of anyone who dare speak out of line or lift the lid on the veil of secrecy surrounding corrupt behaviour within the NSWP. Be damned anyone who dare speak out of line in the NSWP. From Phil Arantz to Tim Priest there is no place or protection in the NSWP for an internal police witness ("Whistleblower"). Discrediting, vilification, reprisals and intimidation are the standard operation procedures for dealing with a police whistleblower.

Behind the politically inspired glossy façade of the NSWP is a very dysfunctional and unhealthy organization in need of drastic and immediate change. After exhausting absolutely all avenues in this State, through both a myriad of internal and external agencies, to expose the corruption that is rife within the NSWP, I feel that this

submission is my last chance. I cannot emphasize more, that absolutely all avenues have been exhausted in this State.

My name is Richard McDonald. I am a Constable in the New South Wales Police ("NSWP"). I entered the NSWP on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 1995, Class 264 of the Police Recruit Education Program ("PREP") at the Police Academy, Goulburn. After successfully completing PREP I was confirmed to the rank of Constable. During my service I have been stationed at the following Commands, Broadway, Redfern, Dee Why and Rose Bay. Since the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2000 I have been suspended from duty on full pay. I am currently seeking a medical discharge (stress) from the NSWP.

During my service, I have relentlessly attempted, with zero success, to expose corruption within the NSWP. The exorbitant level of entrenched systemic corruption within the NSWP must directly affect the NSWP ability to operate effectively. If crime, and the fear of crime can have a significant impact on quality of life and the way that people choose to participate in society, any organization therefore vested with the public duty to reduce crime, and the fear of crime, must be, corruption resistant, open, transparent, accountable, and operate with the highest standards of integrity. Flowing from this, any agency or individual, vested with responsibility of overseeing such an organization, must act with the highest degree of integrity to ensure that that organization maintains those very high standards. I can provide extensive evidence that this has not been the case. In some circumstances certain individuals have engaged in criminal conduct by acting to the contrary, with impunity and absolute protection.

When I entered the NSWP in November 1995, the Wood Royal Commission was nearing an end. The NSWP were looking for a new Police Commissioner to take charge and restore public confidence in an organization shattered and in crisis by the startling revelations of the Wood Royal Commission. The NSWP Corporate Plan stated that the vision of the NSWP was that New South Wales would have the safest streets in Australia by the year 2000. At this time I honestly believed that the NSWP were heading in a positive direction. With this belief, like most recruits, I left the Police Academy eager, keen and confident that I would certainly be able to make a difference. Tragically this would not be the case. On all account the NSWP not only failed me but the law-abiding public of New South Wales who have been continually deceived by lies, deceit, spin-doctoring, and any other means necessary to paint a picture that all is well within the NSWP. Let me assure you, it's not.

The Wood Royal Commission did little, if anything at all, to rid the NSWP of corruption. Corruption has been allowed to flourish with impunity. The streets of New South Wales are no safer today than they were in 1995, and Commissioners Ryan's reign will go down in history as one of the greatest disasters of the NSWP.

Post Royal Commission, the NSWP, the Police Integrity Commissioner ("PIC"), the New South Wales Ombudsman ("Ombudsman"); have wilfully failed to rid the NSWP of corruption at its highest levels. Tragically this has adversely affected the ability of front-line police officers to effectively fight crime at a grass-roots level. We will continue to see the problems of Cabramatta, Redfern, Waterloo and South-West Sydney.

As already stated I have exhausted all avenues in this State to expose the corruption within the NSW Police, both internal and external. The Office of the Police Minister, The Office of the Shadow Minister for Police, the Police Integrity Commission, the Ombudsman, and a myriad of agencies within the NSW Police itself. The very foundation of integrity within this State has been undermined and no one within this State has been or is prepared, to do anything about it.

**EXTENSIVE EVIDENCE (ORAL AND DOCUMENTARY) THAT I AM PREPARED TO PROVIDE TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE INCLUDES:**

1. Evidence of serious misconduct, corruption and criminal activity involving management and senior police.
2. Evidence of a wilful and continual failure by the NSW Police to investigate serious allegations relating to serious misconduct, corruption and criminal activity involving management and senior police.
3. Evidence of a wilful and continual failure by the Ombudsman and the PIC to investigate serious allegations relating to serious misconduct, corruption and criminal activity involving management and senior police.
4. Evidence of widespread breaches of the Police Service Act and the Protected Disclosures Act.
5. Evidence of vilification and intimidation of Internal Police Witnesses by management and senior police.
6. Evidence of a failure by the Police Minister, The Hon. Mr Michael Costa, to address serious allegations of misconduct, corruption and criminal activity involving management and senior police that were brought to his attention.
7. Evidence of a failure by those vested with the responsibility of ensuring the welfare of Internal Police Witnesses.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully

Richard MCDONALD