

Submission 18

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BY: *P. L. Gould*

The Secretary  
Standing Committee on  
Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find enclosed our submission in respect of the Committee's inquiry into Crime in the Community: victims, offenders, and fear of crime.

We seek the Committee's permission to publish the submission for the purpose of stimulating debate.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Neri  
Spokesman  
10 July 2002  
Middle Australia  
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## **SUBMISSION TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS**

**For the Committee's Inquiry into Crime in the Community: victims,  
offenders, and fear of crime**

This is a welcome Inquiry. Our regret is that it has taken this long for the Federal Parliament to step out from behind the Constitution and acknowledge that it has the greatest role of all to play in curbing crime in that the Federal Parliament can address the causes of crime.

### **TYPES OF CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST AUSTRALIANS**

Undoubtedly we suffer mainly from property crime and we believe the prevalence of this type of crime is largely because the Authorities refuse to take property crime seriously and deal effectively with repeat offenders. There appears to be a view among judicial officers that the availability of insurance negates the need to punish offenders, particularly with gaol terms.

### **PERPETRATORS OF CRIME AND MOTIVES**

Young people and junkies commit the bulk of crime. The motive of the latter is obvious. The motive of the former is to emulate what they saw at the movies on the week-end, courtesy of the Federal Government.

### **FEAR OF CRIME**

Fear of crime is a daily part of our lives. It doesn't rule our lives but it saps our quality of life. Our holidays are marred by thoughts of "is someone breaking into our home?". We walk through Noosa National Park and recall Sian Kingi and every other violent encounter that has occurred there. We shudder as we drive past the turn off to the Belanglo Forest.

Don Weatherburn and his criminologist colleagues deride our fear of crime! They point to their wretched statistics but somehow fail to appreciate that statistics are based on some actual criminal occurrence. Someone must have been murdered, bashed or raped in order for the statistic to have arisen but criminologists appear to promote the view that crime will always happen to someone else, seemingly forgetting that we are that someone else!

### **IMPACT OF BEING A VICTIM OF CRIME**

Resentment, utter resentment. Enormous anger and utter hatred of the Courts and all those involved in seeking to mollify the impact of the criminal justice

system on the offender.

We live our lives by the rules. We don't cut corners. And, yes, we expect this to be taken into account by the Courts when they deal with those who harm us. But the opposite occurs. In comes the offender surrounded by a panoply of legal aid solicitors, community workers and psychologists, and its "lights! cameras! action!" and all eyes focus on this pitiful "victim of society". And the Judge or Magistrate turns to us and says: "yes, well, its most unfortunate what happened to you but here's a few bob from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund. Now run along and don't make a nuisance of yourself, there's a good fellow".

And a few weeks later, we're sitting at the bar of the local hotel trying to get our bruised and battered lips around a beer and who walks in laughing with his mates but the assailant, Jimmi Snot! Not a care in the world. Got off on a bond, particularly if he lived in the Australian Capital Territory where it would appear justices of the Supreme Court are unaware of any other sentencing option!

## **STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT VICTIMS AND REDUCE CRIME**

Victims want more than monetary compensation. They want perpetrators of crimes to suffer like they did. We have no embarrassment about entertaining notions of revenge.

We discuss strategies to reduce crime later in this document in our essay on the womb.

## **APPREHENSION RATES**

The cry for more Police as a response to spiralling crime is scorned by many policy-makers and yet there can be a nexus between an increased police presence and a drop in crime rates. As Dr Sat Mukherjee of the Australian Institute of Criminology said:

"Prison is no deterrent to crime, because of the extreme unlikelihood of any criminal being caught ... the odds of a criminal going to jail are 1000 to one."(emp.add.) (Sydney Morning Herald 6.2.1999).

Our point is that when operational police call for more support, their claims should be examined more carefully instead of being dismissed on the basis of "Police will always want more Police" as appears to be a common response, because police numbers, properly employed, would appear to increase apprehension rates thereby increasing the effectiveness of prison (and other punishments) as a deterrent.

## EFFECTIVENESS OF SENTENCING

We hold judges and magistrates in utter contempt.

The human being is incapable of self-regulation. It will pursue its self-serving activities until it meets an obstacle. That is the nature of the beast. If the Courts fail to demonstrate to offenders that their anti-social behaviour will incur them a penalty then obviously they will continue along the same path.

Sentencing can be effective, in our opinion, mainly when it results in a prison sentence. Indeed we believe, as Professor Fels would also seem to believe in the case of corporate crooks, that prison sentences are the most effective sentencing option and should be used more freely. But judicial officers, particularly judges, don't like sending offenders to prison because it offends the image they have of themselves as intellectuals. Only the mob calls for prison! Society suffers for the vanity of its judges!

## COMMUNITY SAFETY AND POLICING

Police must get out of their vehicles and onto the streets. Rapport with the public must be established and maintained. Old-fashioned intelligence-gathering techniques re-deployed. This does not require a University Degree as criminologists seem to think. As NSW Police Chief Ken Moroney said: "Policing isn't rocket science!".

### The Womb



Committee. Your terms of reference, with respect, have been done to death in a thousand crime reports, papers, inquiries. These terms address symptoms not causes. :

People cause crime, particularly the so called poor. Not so much because they lack wealth but because they lack civilised values and all the benefits and all the allowances and all the largesse will never inculcate in a person the appropriate values. Put simply, once feral, always feral. Poor people usually had poor parents, so part of the solution to crime is not to encourage the poor to breed. But we do encourage them. We introduced the single parent pension, arguably the most destructive social welfare measure ever conceived. We pay huge child maintenance sums. The child is an income producing asset:

"Pregnancy is a career in this town", says the head of the Kempsey Neighbourhood Centre, Janel Mann, "And the thing now is that when women go to collect their sole parent pension, the men are sticking their hands out and asking for stud money." (Sydney Morning Herald 21.2.1998).

Committee. The most effective anti-crime measure is that which is anti-womb. You should turn your mind to this in your deliberations. How to dissuade the poor from reproducing. It takes courage to address such a taboo topic. The closest Australia's delicate criminologists got, was to say:"If you've got a single mum living in poverty with no support from friends and neighbours or relatives, then you've got a recipe for involvement in crime by the child." (Dr Don Weatherburn *Australian* 7.12.1998).

But our retort is that the single mum shouldn't have had her brats in the first place! We are the ones who pay the consequences along with the unfortunate child!

So here is your big chance, Committee. For the first time a Federal Parliamentary Committee can hold the Commonwealth Parliament responsible for the mess its created. Don't blow it! Be bold! Be courageous! But above all don't shirk from the truth! That the womb is the crucible of all evil.

**Paul Neri** 10 July 2002; Copy:Adams,P;Amnesty International;Australian;Brown, R MP;Canberra Times;Catholic Commission;Crean S,Hon;Despoya N MP;Gleeson, M Hon;Hartcher,C MP;Law Council;Law Society NSW;Miles, J Hon;Mullett,P;Nelson, B Hon;Nutt T;O'Shane,P;Parris, M;Pearson,N;Phillips, J Hon;Singer, P;Spigelman,J Hon;Sydney Morning Herald;Vanstone,A Hon;W.E.L (NSW);Mailing List.

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