



To Julia Thoener, Inquiry Secretary,
House of Representatives Standing Committee/Legal/Constit. Affairs,
Parliament House, Canberra.

RECEIVED
14 OCT 2002

From Joy Potts, of the NSW Country Women's Association.

Re: Inquiry into Crime in the Community. NSW Parliament House, Sydney. 10 October, 2002. BY:.....

I am sorry I did not have the chance of talking to you on the 10th. Could you please arrange for the following comments to be presented to the Hon. Bronwyn Bishop MP?

Firstly I want to compliment the Chair for the gracious manner in which she handled the inquiry.

Dr. Washer asked about crime in the country areas. The CWA does have branches in metropolitan areas, but most are in rural/regional/outback. I tried - not very successfully - to get across the message that the smaller cities - like Cessnock - are much better off than those in the metropolitan areas, crime-wise. Mainly, I think, because even though our police force is stretched, the police know everyone - they know who are on the fringe, who uses drugs, they know who gets the free party packs for clean injecting, they know who deals and they are kept under surveillance. I mentioned a local rag "The Independent" -- this paper reports on the local court cases - and it is the same families facing court each fortnight - for no-show at previous courts, traffic infringements, using drugs etc.

I must say I was impressed with the logic of Dr. Washer and Mr. Bottom re the seeming correctness given drug using, so long as HIV etc. do not result from sharing needles etc.

Another plus for country/rural areas re crime is that these areas do not have the "racist" gangs - Aboriginal, Asian etc.

Dr. Washer also asked re deterrents to going to gaol.. I now remember a time when young juvenile offenders were taken to gaols and shown -- warts and all -- just what could happen to them in gaol, if they kept on stretching the law. I don't know whether this scheme worked or if it is still practised, but I am sure there is some merit in it.

Many thanks, Ms Thoener.