

STANDING COMMITTEE

ON

- 6 OCT 2009

FAMILY, COMMUNITY,
HOUSING & YOUTH

29. SEP. 2009

Secretary,
House Standing Committee,
Family Comm. Housing and Youth,
C/- Parliament House,
CANBERRA, A.C.T., 2600.

Dear Sir,

As regular listeners to Radio 4CRB Gold Coast, Queensland we were invited to submit our thoughts to you regarding the youth of Australia and their attitudes towards every day living in our wonderful country.

My wife and I who are both in our early 80s know that fortunately most of the youth today are genuine and well behaved but we have also met up with some who need to be disciplined more than what the powers that be have decided and the courts impose; and to a large extent the parents of these youngsters are more to blame than anyone else. So often we see on TV parents who berate the police for doing what they are paid to do. Perhaps some police use excessive force but then perhaps they are forced to do so. When we were very young the mere mention of Police was sufficient for us to reconsider what we were proposing and thankfully murders, rape, bashings, kidnappings were a rarity in comparison to today. Now I am not suggesting that youngsters commit these horrendous crimes but surely this business of not having parents reprimand with a slap on the bottom when deserved leads to the misdemeanors that fill our newspapers today. Of course parents must not mistreat their children but even animals will not accept bad behavior and give a nip here and there to show the kids what is acceptable and what is not. The ridiculous law that forbids identification of juveniles committing crimes should and must be made redundant. How often do we read in the papers of young offenders committing the same crime two or three times who come before the courts? They know that nothing is going to happen to them so they leave court and go commit the same thing again. Perhaps naming and shaming at least could convince them to begin behaving themselves. If insufficient space is available for the housing of these individuals then more should be built and when judges or magistrates hand down sentences those should be served in full and not reduced or suspended. In other words a life sentence should be for life. Another aspect which should be looked at is this business of "Plea" bargaining. "Murder" is murder and "Manslaughter" is manslaughter. In other words get it right first time and stick with it.

I trust my comments make sense.

Yours sincerely,

Keith O. Holman
(Keith. O. Holman)