



# Robert Brokenshire

Member for Mawson MP, JP



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Committee Secretary  
House of Representatives Standing Committee on **BY:.....**  
Legal and Constitutional Affairs  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Members

I congratulate your Committee on the work they are doing with respect to Crime in the community: victims, offenders and fear of crime and wish you well with your deliberations.

In my opinion crime is of growing concern to Australians and whilst I do not suggest for one moment that I am an expert on any of the matters within your terms of reference, I was happy to put pen to paper just to reinforce a few points that I think are critical.

Whilst, generally in South Australia we have not seen significant increases in what we would call serious crime, there is no doubt that there has been a general trend in crime against people and their property, in the form of bag snatching, property break and enter and certainly motor vehicle break and enter. Most of this, when assessed, does come back to illicit drug dependency and I would encourage your committee to look as closely as possible towards crime trends related to peoples dependency on illicit drugs.

I also believe that the more work that can be done nationally and across borders when it comes to drug trafficking, Heads of Agreement, Memorandums of Understanding and police jurisdictions on specific law enforcement initiatives, will assist, as I think the patterns are generally the same across Australia.

When it comes to fear of crime amongst people in South Australia, I do not think it is generally any higher than any other part of the country. However, continual front page stories about home invasion and the like do certainly put a fear in certain members of the community. I have noticed that occurring when security companies ring up selling their security equipment and advising people that they live in a high crime area. Therefore, I believe the more factual statistics that can be put across to the community, the less chance there will be of people living in fear of crime.

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The South Australian Government in recent years has done quite a bit to support victims of crime and I would encourage your committee to have a look at this through the Attorney Generals department. I feel it is really important to encourage victims of crime to register so that they can receive support. It appears that some people still do not know that they can receive support from Victims of Crime Services in South Australia and I guess it would be the same in other states.

I would also like to comment on community safety and policing. Over the last few years in South Australia, a local service area model of community based policing was developed and prior to that, crime trends generally were going up and it is now pleasing to see the opposite occurring. I believe the key part to this is getting back to good old fashioned policing, where police work with a cross section of the community to develop crime prevention programs and work on intelligence based policing initiatives so that they are aware of where the hot spots are. People feel comfortable to give intelligence to the police and a lot of issues, that could be more serious, are addressed early by police before they get out of hand.

In my community, the police work together with Council Crime Prevention Officers who are partly funded by Local Government and State Government and they have developed a range of pro-active initiatives across the Council area. These are starting to provide a great deal of benefit in keeping our communities safe. I would encourage your committee to seek information from all states on what they are doing with respect to community based policing and police integrating and working closely with Health Workers, Social Workers, Youth Workers and Crime Prevention Officers.

I trust these few basic points will be of some assistance in your deliberations and I wish you every success.

Yours sincerely



Hon Robert Brokenshire MP JP  
Member for Mawson  
Shadow Minister for Police & Emergency Services  
Shadow Minister for Volunteers  
Shadow Minister for Gambling

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