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THE AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION

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Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission
Inquiry into the legislative arrangements to outlaw serious and organised
crime groups

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Executive Summary

The history of Adelaide's settlement has created in its residents and government a belief that they are in a confederation with those residents of other states who trace their cultural roots to a convict past. This has created a mindset which permeates its institutions and 'style' of government. SAPOL is no exception.

In 2001 an incident occurred at the Beachport Hotel which publically humiliated The Rann Government and its Police. Their then new 'hard edge' policing unit titled the Tactical Response Group suffered a crushing defeat in an affray at the hands of the Gypsy Joker Motorcycle Club. Immediately prior to this event, Premier Rann had commenced targeting the South Australian outlaw motorcycle clubs as an 'enemy within' the state. The humiliation of SAPOL provided the political will to create a moral panic led by Premier Rann and his police.

So, for the past seven years, the attack on outlaw motorcycle clubs by Premier Rann and SAPOL has escalated to the point where draconian legislation targeting South Australia's outlaw motorcycle clubs has recently been implemented in the Serious and Organised Crime Act.

The highly unusual length of time taken to proceed with the draconian legislation was most likely due to the fact that the South Australian outlaw motorcycle clubs organised a resistance to the moral panic attack. A charismatic leader of the clubs arose – Steve Williams, who became a well respected public figure and spokesperson for the clubs. Williams went missing. He was going to attend a meeting with a Senior SAPOL officer. He is presumed dead.

With Williams out of the picture, the moral panic could be re-kindled from the ashes with little opposition. So, the result was the legislation which the government hopes will enable the destruction of these clubs.

The evidence is contested as to the degree of criminality within these clubs. Certainly, no one claims they are criminal free. However, when the data are presented, crime attributable to bikie gangs is extremely low as a proportion of total crime. The best estimates are that .6 of 1% of total crimes is committed by gangs of any sort in Australia. Once youth and ethnic gangs are removed from the equation, the number reduces further. So, the Rann Government and SAPOL are basically plundering the public purse to crush an element of society which is responsible for a miniscule amount of crime.

All public surveys concur. The South Australian public perceives the outlaw motorcycle clubs as much less of a threat to public safety than youth or ethnic gangs.

The legislation is not only draconian. It serves to implement the first dress code in Australia, provides the Attorney General with unheard of discretionary powers to deem organizations on the most capricious of grounds, does not adequately define organized crime and provides no appeal process for organisations deemed to be criminal. No checks and balances are attempted in the formulation of these new powers. Unfortunately, it is too late for South Australians to resist these travesties of justice. The only possible recourse to attempt to put some balance back into the system is to immediately establish an independent authority such as the CMC in Queensland and the ICAC in New South Wales have done to make some attempt to balance the very well known fact that absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Introduction

But after all, it is the leaders of the country who determine policy, and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. ...Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is to tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in any country.

Hermann Göring, 1945, from Gilberts Nuremberg Diary

Göring's infamous conversation with Gustave Gilbert during the Nuremberg trials resonates with what is commonly known as a moral panic. Initially identified in 1972 by Stanley Cohen – a sociologist who studied conflict between youthful British bikies called Rockers and motorised scooter riders called Mods, Cohen identified the process, but the phenomenon was known to have occurred for centuries. Witch Hunts, Pogroms and the 'Politics of Fear' are all examples of other names used to describe the same process.

In Cohen's analysis, marginalised groups are defined as enemies of the state and therefore deserving of public hostility and punishment according to a scholarly work written in 1999 by Ronald Burns and Charles Crawford. In 1994, Erich Goode and Nachman Ben-Yehuda identified that the state's solution to the 'problem' is to strengthen social control mechanisms, such as: legislating tougher laws, encouraging public hostility towards the 'evil doers', employing more police to enforce the new legislation, direct police to make more arrests of evil doers and their supporters and, finally build more prisons.

Mainstream media in all its forms takes the lead from the state and amplifies the deviance of the 'folk devils (as Cohen calls them). Experts are called upon to support the state's actions by the media. Experts' comments are used by both the media and the government to legitimise the actions of the state. The net effect is demonization or criminalization of a sector or section of society.

So, Göring's statements, in conjunction with Cohen's Moral Panic analysis provide a theoretical back drop to the political machinations and fear politics which have driven The Great South Australian Bokie Moral Panic. However, there are additional factors and forces at work behind the scenes forcing their draconian legislation with regard to their Serious and Organized Crime legislation.

South Australia and Moral Panic

Early settlement of South Australia differed from the rest of Australia in that it was *not* a convict colony. The colonial entrepreneurs enticed free settlers to South Australia with the promise of civil and religious liberty. Lutherans took up the offer prior to 1840. The Lutherans fled religious persecution in their country of origin – Prussia, and sailed to South Australia.

These emigrants were instrumental in the emergence of Adelaide. Known by residents and some others as 'The City of Churches', Adelaide was on the cutting edge of Australian leftist politics and, in particular, its tolerance of others. After all, South Australians were different... they were **not** populated with 'The Convict Stain'. In 1989, John Pilger spoke of the unspeakable in Australia in his book titled *A Secret Country*. However, John's very interesting analysis did not cover the case of Adelaide – a state believing they were forced into a union comprised of thugs and their

controllers. It may well be this fundamental belief indicates that pride and a sense of superiority characterises a South Australian from citizens who reside in other states of the Federation.

Today, a traveller to Adelaide cannot help but notice the very impressive spires of the great cathedrals of St Peters, St Francis Xavier's Roman Catholic Cathedral, several Uniting Churches and a Scots Church which are to be found in that beautiful little city. These iconic sights serve as a tangible reminder of the founding fathers promise of religious and civil freedom for all South Australians.

Seventy five years after achieving statehood, the grand promise of civil and religious freedom was put aside for Prussian immigrants' children and their families. The year was 1915 and the folk devils were identified - people of German descent and those with Germanic family names were labelled by the state as 'the enemy within'¹ and a moral panic was played out. So, during World War 1, South Australian Germans were placed under house arrest, the Attorney-General Mr Homburg was forced to resign², men were sent to internment camps, Lutheran schools were closed, adults lost their right to vote, and more than 50 German town names were changed (for example, Hahndorf to Ambleside, Petersburg to Peterborough). The moral panic intensified later in 1915 when Labour Premier John Verran announced that no more Germans would be naturalised and no people with German surnames would be employed by the South Australian Education Department.³ These state sanctioned actions caused great trauma to many South Australian citizens of German descent – their way of life and cultural heritage was made illegal. In the final analysis, Germanic settlers in South Australia acquiesced to the power of the state and South Australia was 'purged from the taint of the Germans'.

The Great South Australian Bikie Moral Panic

Whilst, the earliest South Australian moral panic of 1915 was based on nationality, currently the 'enemy within' or 'folk devil' is now and has been for at least seven years, outlaw motorcycle clubs. (The history of South Australia's motorcycle clubs is attached in Appendix 1.) It seems that bikies were not regarded by authorities as criminals or any other problem until the affray at Gawler's Beach in 1974. The incident which precipitated bikies being defined as a problem was that someone took along a shotgun in a scheduled fight to resolve turf related issues amongst the numerous motorcycle clubs which inhabited Adelaide. For many years, Gawler Beach was the place where inter-bikie gang disputes were settled – well out of the public eye. However, in this 'conflict resolution', one of the crew whose club name was 'Barry Bullshit' was shot in the chest by a rival who had brought the gun along. With full support of the public of the day, SAPOL formed a Bikie Squad led by the then Sergeant Sam Bass who would eventually become a prominent South Australian politician.

Following the appointment of Sam Bass and the formation of the Bikie Squad, the bikies started to become increasingly more high profile, and their criminality came to be features of the usual rhetoric during law and order based election campaigns. The bikies didn't like the attention, but; most agreed that the attention they received by the state was similar to other states in Australia. However, the South Australian

¹ See Australian National Library- Anzac Day.

<http://www.anzacday.org.au/history/ww1/homefront/homefront.html>

² See State Library of South Australia. <http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/manning/sa/ww1/germans.htm>

³ See State Library of South Australia. <http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/manning/sa/ww1/germans.htm>

government and senior SAPOL relations with bikies changed dramatically in 1999 after the soon to be Premier, Michael Rann, visited the United States Federal Bureau of Investigations.

Upon his return, bikie clubs began to be called criminal bikie gangs and portrayed as being increasingly nefarious by government and police sources. The Government and SAPOL announced that a Tactical Response Group had been formed to follow suit with international and national trends in policing in the year 2000. The media of the day highlighted the serious organized crime threat which bikies posed to South Australians in the formation of this police unit. This move was to produce dire consequences for bikies, police and government.

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In January 2001 the South Australian Gypsy Joker Motorcycle Club went on their annual run which they had done for many years without incident. The first leg of the run was to the tiny hamlet of Beachport located on the coast near the Victorian border. According to statements made by police and towns people, all seemed relaxed and a great time was had by all concerned. With the exception of two traffic citations and a noise complaint by an elderly town resident, no trouble was evident or recorded/reported. The Officer in Charge of the field operation delegated command to his Second in Command so that he could get some rest from the pressure of managing public order in Beachport. For reasons unknown, the Second in Command either called the new Tactical Response Group or responded to a call from the Commander of the Tactical Response Group indicating that their presence was required on the scene.

Several hours passed and then the police and government's new 'hard edge' Tactical Response Group arrived on the scene. The Commander of the Tactical Response Group immediately met with the Second in Command of the field operation who informed him that "the main trouble was at the Pub". The Tactical Response Group proceeded to the location of the Pub. Once in position, an officer driving a Divvy Van who was not part of the Tactical Response Group was told by an unnamed member of the Tactical Response Group "you better stick around while we clean them up. We will have plenty of business for you." As the Tactical Response Group approached the pub, Gypsy Joker Motorcycle Club sources indicated that the Nominees for the club (people wishing to become members) reported to the Gypsy Jokers inside the pub that their motorcycles were being kicked over.

Like a swarm of angry bees, the Gypsy Jokers went outside to see what was happening. Police or not, if a fella kicks your motorcycle in biker culture they are obviously looking for a serious fight. Free Wheelin Frank (former Secretary of the San Francisco Hells Angels Motorcycle Club wrote with Michael McClure in 1985 of his being flogged by police which was "...fair enough, but when they started to kick my bike, I just had to do something to stop them." This is the story he gave the judge at his trial for Assault Police and Resisting Arrest which resulted in a very minor sentence being imposed by the grinning Judge who was thoroughly amused by the naturally humorous Free Wheelin' Frank. Back to Beachport - it seems that one interpretation of events is that he TRG were keen to prove their capacity to clean up these bikies.

So, the battle was joined. In the end it was a crushing and humiliating defeat for the Tactical Response Group. Their Commander suffered a broken jaw and his hat was taken and worn by Gypsy Joker Member Steve Williams as he fought on with

other Tactical Response Group members after disposing of their commander. Others from the Tactical Response Group were severely thrashed and required hospitalisation, with one member losing partial vision in his eye. The club returned to their camp. The Tactical Response Group retreated to Field Headquarters where medical assistance was provided to those who didn't require serious treatment at a Hospital.

Needless to say, the Gypsy Jokers Motorcycle Club had won the battle, but; the war against the South Australian Bikies was about to seriously escalate. Any state will respond to their elite new unit failing so abysmally.

It was shortly after the Beachport incident that Steve Williams was voted in to the President's position by the Gypsy Jokers MC. Upon his appointment, he requested assistance from Veno in managing the Adelaide based South Australian motorcycle clubs survival. Veno eventually agreed to help after reviewing the situation very carefully with the proviso that van den Eynde would assist.

The fact that 'the experts' agreed with the 'folk devils' posed a serious problem for the moral panic campaign being waged by the Rann Government. Added to this, there now was serious state/police humiliation resulting from events at Beachport which left a festering wound in the state's relations with bikies.

Our role was to design and implement a strategy to give the Adelaide based Gypsy Jokers Motorcycle Club a face and voice in the media, guide the club to utilise political coalition building strategies with independent politicians and finally, to monitor the success or failure of the campaign of resistance to the moral panic⁴.

In 2002, informed debate and rigorous enquiry virtually disappeared in South Australia with regard to bikies, when the Australian Labour Party government made "elimination of bikie gangs" the central plank in their election platform. Premier Rann unambiguously stated his intention to rid the state from the menace of criminal motorcycle gangs, who he claimed were an organised criminal network, with international criminal links involved in drug distribution, prostitution and violent crime. The moral panic and need for vindication continued with the election of the ALP. The Great South Australian Bikie Moral Panic continued into 2003 when government introduced legislation to support their stated aims of outlaw motorcycle club eradication. Government proposals included:

- Bulldozing clubhouses.
- Refusing building permits to club members.
- 'Weeding bikie gangs out of legitimate businesses.
- Eliminating associates of outlaw motorcycle clubs from the security industry, and
- Introducing a tougher version of existing Consorting legislation (that has failed when it was applied to persons of Aboriginal descent previously in South Australia).

In 2003, Greg Kelton wrote an article for the Adelaide Advertiser reporting that the government had 'declared war' on the outlaw motorcycle clubs. Concern was aired by the Australian Democrats who described the laws being introduced to dismantle the clubhouses as "the worst proposed legislation since Apartheid in South Africa" and went on to claim it is "the most blatant exercise of discrimination" (ABC TV news, 2003, December 1).

⁴ A full account of this work is provided in Appendix 2

Tensions were at crisis point between the government, their police, and the outlaw motorcycle clubs. More fuel was added to the fire by extraordinary attacks on motorcycle club members, often under the protection of parliamentary privilege. This sits beautifully with events now transpiring in the Great South Australian Bikie Moral Panic. The Premier now described outlaw motorcycle club members as “foot soldiers for crime organisations”, and the government would enact “tough new laws to weed bikie gangs out of legitimate businesses” The Advertiser of 15 October, 2003 reported the Premier announced that people who ‘associate’ with outlaw motorcycle clubs would be scrutinized with an eye to re-establishing the use of existing Consorting laws. In Hansard records for October 22, 2003 Premier Rann described outlaw motorcycle clubs as ‘scum’, and ‘meatheads on motorbikes’, and claimed they were “murderers, rapists, drug pushers and organised gangsters, responsible for shootouts and bombings”. Premier Rann extended his accusations by including a personal attack on the experts. Veno, who at this time was working with Steve Williams to curtail the moral panic was accused of being “totally fraudulent, phoney and totally dangerous”. Premier Rann added that Veno was a “so called academic and bikie apologist”.

Journalists wrote that the State Premier was making his strongest statement yet in his declared war against outlaw bikie gangs, accusing them of “murder after murder, rape after rape... of involvement in activities from murder through to the illegal possession of rocket launchers, grenades and machine guns” (The Advertiser, 2003, October 22, p. 1). Adding to the growing moral panic, Senior South Australian Police officers commented in newspapers that outlaw motorcycle club members are incompetent, and hindered by an overall low IQ (The Press, 2004). Australian Broadcasting Corporation Radio News (ABC, 2005, March 17) reported that outlaw motorcycle clubs were not only involved in the drug trade, but people smuggling and sex slavery.

However, it was clear that Steve Williams and the Gypsy Jokers MC were being effective at the street level with Steve Williams becoming somewhat of a celebrity. Steve received fan mail, Gypsy Jokers Motorcycle Club members were stopped whilst in fish and chip shops and the like where the occasional person would come up to a member and say “Hey. You are the guys who are taking Rann on – Good onya!”

Stopping the emerging moral panic was so successful that Premier Rann made little comment about bikies in public or parliament following ABC TV broadcast *Statewide* on 5 December, 2003. The storyline was how a member of the Gypsy Jokers MC and a citizen riding behind him had their backs broken (allegedly by police) on the evening following the Beachport affray. It would take 3 ½ years - until mid 2007, before Premier Rann rekindled his moral panic campaign against bikies.

Steve Williams went missing in June 2005. He was last seen headed for an appointment with a senior SAPOL officer. With Williams now missing and listed on Australia’s Missing Person’s List – presumed dead - the bikie clubs fell into disarray with respect to a public face and a voice.

So, the moral panic campaign kicked into high gear with little opposition. Subsequently, it has been a clear run for the Rann Government and police. From June 2007, the government, including Premier Rann attempted to link bikers to terrorists. He was quoted as saying bikers are “terrorists within our community...terrorists who also happen to sell drugs and ... murderers and drug dealers” in an article appearing in the 4 June, 2007 Advertiser.

On November 11 2007, New Zealand newspaper Hawkes Bay Today quoted Premier Rann as stating that bikers were “the evil of the nation”, and were “terrorists

within our community” who are involved in drug trafficking, murder, extortion, intimidation and firearms smuggling. This linkage to bikers and terrorists appears to have been strategic as this nexus provided the impetus and justification for Premier Rann to contact the then Prime Minister Howard to establish a national approach to bikie gangs linked to the existing terrorist laws, to re-visit the FBI and to spend \$11 million on a new crime-busting computer system, and to replace AVATAR with a new Crime Gang Task Force. During this time frame, newspapers reported on the failure of the bulldozing laws, The Law Society of South Australia and senior legal companies registered their opposition to the new legislation and a few independents and some members of minor parties provided some resistance to the introduction of the proposed legislation. The government and the opposition supported all these massive expenditures of public monies to the ends of eliminating outlaw motorcycle clubs or gangs. So, South Australia’s draconian Serious and Organised Crime legislation sailed through the processes of implementation.

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How much of a crime problem are outlaw motorcycle clubs?

Two public surveys about fear and safety were conducted by newspapers during the time period 2002 - 2005. At the height of our intervention (mid 2004) to curtail the moral panic, The Sunday Mail of 25 July, reported on page 31 their survey results which found that 49% of respondents indicated youth gangs were the major threat to public safety. Youth gangs were followed by ethnic gangs and other organised crime entities, and lastly, only 9.6% of the respondents considered outlaw motorcycle clubs a threat to their safety. The newspaper concluded the public perceived that “youth gangs were a greater threat to public safety than bikie gangs”. The Advertiser of 20 February, 2006 reported on page 2 the results of a second public opinion survey which found that the “Public was not impressed with Police Strategy” as the headline read. Ninety per cent of the public saw youth gangs and ethnic gangs as bigger problems than OMCs.

We have tried several times to obtain statistical information as to the extent of the bikie club or gang problem in South Australia by approaching The Director of the South Australian Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, SAPOL, and the Minister for Police. No data was made available to us and The Director of the South Australian Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research denied that such statistics were kept.

Veno’s thirty years of working with both police and bikies around Australia and internationally allows for a unique view of the crime problem that South Australia’s bikies pose. Based on these experiences⁵, we can assure the committee that the South Australian bikies are no more of a crime threat than New South Wales, Queensland and Victorian bikie gangs.

In the current literature, outlaw motorcycle clubs links with criminality is contested. The majority of evidence comes from sources closely aligned with

⁵ Veno’s *The Brotherhoods: Inside Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs*, published by Allen and Unwin (Sydney, 2002, 2004 and *The Mammoth Book of Bikers* published by Constable and Robinson, 2007 are nonfiction books which gives readers some indication of his standing and expertise in this area.

government and its instrumentalities. For example, in 1992, Jack Serwer, claims outlaw motorcycle clubs are fronts for criminal organisations. In the United States, Scandinavia and Holland, Jim Quinn and his colleagues as well as Tom Barker report that certain outlaw motorcycle clubs (known colloquially as The Big Four) are criminal organizations who primarily manufacture and distribute amphetamines, but are also heavily involved with drugs, prostitution, racketeering, stolen goods, extortion and violence.

However, there is substantive evidence from reputable criminal investigative sources which come to a different conclusion based upon their research. In Canada, at the Nathanson Centre for the Study of Organized Crime and Corruption, in Australia at the Criminal Misconduct Commission (Project Krystal, 1999), and in the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention (BRÅ report, 1999) there is no unanimous agreement about outlaw motorcycle clubs and criminality. Specifically, these organizations found that while individual OMC members may have criminal records and some individuals may be involved in criminal activity, outlaw motorcycle clubs are not organised criminal organisations. Indeed, not all outlaw motorcycle clubs are involved with criminal activities, and even the most notorious outlaw motorcycle clubs have chapters free of criminality (Beare, 2000; Project Krystal, 1999).

New South Wales Superintendent Scot Whyte who is in charge of that state's gang squad examined POSSE data (a form filled out by police at the time of arrest) and found 0.6 of one percent of total crime was attributed to gang crimes. If youth and ethnic gangs are disaggregated from that number, the incidence of bikie gang related crime is so incredibly small that the expenditure of police resources pursuing bikie clubs through South Australian style legislation is truly one of the most inappropriate and wasteful exercises possible.

We have been unable to find any evidence of success of the 2003 legislation in South Australia. From our research, we have not found any biker club houses being bulldozed, in fact it was reported the Rebels MC opened a meeting place (clubhouse) in October 2004 as reported by The Australian of 26 May, 2005. On June 9th 2007, The Advertiser reported there were eight 'bikie fortresses' in metropolitan suburbs of Adelaide... all left unscathed by police and government.

POSSE and other 'on arrest' statistical information systems such as LEAP used by Australian Police are fraught with difficulties as they rely upon the standing orders of the day to Police Members by the Officer in Charge, political agendas flowing from Police Unions and/or Senior Police Bureaucrats or governments of the day. For example, an illusion of a crime wave, for whatever crime, organization, environments (like nightclubs) or cultural groups can be generated simply by The Commander of a Police District instructing all stations to take a 'zero tolerance approach' to the crime in question.

For these reasons, court statistics are a much more reliable indicator of actual crime incidence and prevalence. To date, no analysis of such statistics are available except for an informal data set collected in February, 2006 by the Editor of the Adelaide Advertiser. He reported on the *Sunday* show that:

“... major crime involving the clubs is a rarity in .. (the) courts.
Government and police tell you that bike clubs are very heavily involved in organized crime, particularly illegal drugs like

amphetamines and marijuana. Conversely what you are seeing is that there does not appear to be any empirical evidence (through the courts for example) of successful prosecutions that demonstrates this is indeed the case. “

(Melvin Mansell, Editor of The Advertiser. Transcript from ‘Sunday’ Channel 9 TV, 12 March 2006).

So, “Why let the evidence get in the way of a good idea?” appears to characterise existing government and police responses to outlaw motorcycle clubs in South Australia as well as several other countries.

In Canada, ten years after the passage of their legislation (which appears to have placed most members of the Hells Angels MC, The Bandidos MC and The Rock Machine MC in gaols) the Royal Canadian Mounted Police did analyse the statistics. In that country, imposition of their version of draconian legislation had no effect in the growth in production, distribution and use of methamphetamines, extortion activities, and other crimes in which the Canadian outlaw motorcycle clubs were heavily implicated. The drug pyramid simply replaced bikers with members of ethnic gangs, primarily, according to their analysis.

Arising from the French Separatist Movement in Quebec, French Canadian outlaw motorcycle clubs were particularly lethal. When the legislation was passed in Canada due to the ongoing war between the clubs, members of the Law Enforcement fraternity were targeted. Three prison warders were killed and bombs found beneath seven police stations in Quebec.

All agree that the criminal elements of outlaw motorcycle clubs must be purged from their ranks, except for the criminals, themselves. However, the outlaw motorcycle clubs have been part of the rich tapestry of cultures and sub cultures which comprise our country for at least fifty years. They definitely serve pro social functions for individuals who, for whatever reasons, feel the need to belong to a family who sit visibly quite apart from mainstream society.

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There is humiliation and historical reasons which drove the Great South Australian Bikie Moral Panic and subsequent legislation. Other than South Australia and West Australia, our police and governments achieve the same ends by using existing legislation and police discretionary powers effectively by any measure. The risks of introducing similar legislation elsewhere or nationally are profound for the basic civil liberties for which Australia has been keen to preserve. Indeed, Australia still is home and a highly desired destination for people wishing to be free from persecution. Judging by the strain that refugees create for Australia, we are still regarded as a bastion of civil liberties and freedom within the greater world picture.

Thus, we wish to record our opposition towards the Control Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Bill 2008. Basically, the implementation of this bill appears to infringe upon the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 20, related to freedom of association. Second, the Bill invests immense power in the Attorney-General with minimal rights of appeal for citizens. Third, the absence

of any definition of 'criminal organisations' provides one person immense unbridled legal power. Absolute power vested in the hands of one person is clearly a breeding ground for corruption and violates the principle of checks and balances upon which Western style democracies are built. In light of these objections, we call for the immediate establishment of an independent commission against corruption in South Australia, similar to the CMC in Queensland, ICAC in New South Wales, and Western Australia's Corruption and Crime Commission.

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