

Inquiry into the Decriminalisation of Certain Public Offences, and Health and Welfare Responses

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From: [REDACTED]
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To: Community Support and Services Committee

I am a bit behind with reading the paper, but today, I finally got round to reading Wednesday's Courier Mail. I was so unsure about what exactly the article was trying to say, that I had to ask the opinion of someone else. This person confirmed what I thought the article was trying to say. The article was about repealing certain laws, e.g. public drunkenness, urinating in public and begging. The article gave the impression that, because many of the people who were drunk were indigenous, that the law should be repealed. This sounds very racist, to me - against non-indigenous people. You should just forget about what colour a person's skin is, and instead focus on if they have committed a crime. Being drunk in public may often be fairly harmless, but if violence is included, then that is a crime. Years ago someone I knew (a female) was young, and drunk, but harmless. She was going to a music festival. She was picked up and kept safe, for which her parents were very grateful. Personally, I don't find begging a problem, at least not here. Over in the French Riviera, it is rampant, but I am pretty sure that if the people begging stole something, they would be charged, and so they should be. As for urinating in public, well I think that is truly disgusting, and it should still be considered a crime. Does that mean, then, that if a person exposes their penis, it won't be a crime, because peeing in public? If you are a male, probably means you are exposing your penis. I think urinating in public is horrible, and I travelled to Noumea many years ago, and people were peeing in the streets. It smelled just terrible. I think, probably, that many of the people who pee in public are also drunk. If you are saying that certain crimes now should be repealed because many of the people who commit them are indigenous, then that is really bad and it seems that you will only be doing it because of reverse racism. How about you repeal drug (marijuana) charges, then, or maybe indigenous people don't use that as much. Where do you stop? Drunkenness without crime isn't that bad, but, unfortunately, when people become drunk, they often become aggressive, too, and then crimes are more likely to be committed. We should never just treat indigenous people differently to everyone else. Aren't we supposed to treat everyone the same?