

Mr Morris A Winter

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14 June 2014

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Committee Members

In making this submission to the LA & CSC, I would firstly acknowledge my inexperience in doing so and subsequently ask the Committee to overlook any inadequacies in the presentation of it. The initial information concerning the Committee's inquiry and its terms of reference was forwarded to me by the CEO of the South Burnett Regional Council. Because of my involvement with, and interest in, Crime Prevention initiatives and Police Community partnership programmes within the local community over a period of some 23 years, I felt it timely and appropriate to share with you some observations that may help in your deliberations.

I appreciate that the challenges of solving crime or crime prevention will differ between a Rural or Regional area on the one hand and that of a Metropolitan centre on the other. However, some principles remain relevant across the board. It undoubtedly seems like stating the obvious, but, experience has time and again shown me that where there is a strong workable and effective partnership between a community and its Police (whether in a pro-active or re-active way) this will inevitably lead to very favourable outcomes in both the prevention and solving of crimes, albeit in some communities this is not so easily achieved. Various ways of achieving this can be e.g. through a robust local Neighbourhood or Rural Watch Programme, Community/Police Liaison Committee, or other forums whereby community or Police concerns or issues can be discussed and subsequently addressed. If say ID fraud or cyber bullying were particular problems in a community, these could be addressed through information evenings. Relevant speakers and materials can be made available to the public at these evening or through direct contact to schools, running media campaigns, etc.

As far as the broader concept of this partnership is concerned, the more this can grow and be strengthened through mutual trust and respect, the greater the outcomes will be. The fact is the Police have a tremendous and very "cost-effective" asset in the community around them, who can act as their "eyes and ears", as long as the right relationship exists between them to enable this. For their part the community must be responsibly involved, and be prepared to assist their Police in the aforementioned manner. Likewise Police Officers, from Academy onwards, need to view Community Policing, not as a burden, but as a valuable and essential aspect of their work.

Unfortunately, all too often, Police, along with the broader community, are required to confront both the social and economic impacts that result from criminal activity and which can be directly traced back to a "far less than adequate" home life. Without apportioning blame, the reality is that, the family unit remains the basis of society, and unless improvements are made (where needed) in this area, these challenges will remain. This in itself presents no small degree of difficulty to the community (small or large), however, where all the relevant stakeholders e.g. schools, local council, police, support agencies, community groups etc, can work together for the common good of all concerned, great outcomes can be achieved.

I acknowledge that the aforementioned points only briefly touch on the committee's overall terms of reference, but should further clarification or information be sought, please feel free to contact me either by mail or phone at the above address and numbers.

Wishing the Committee every success in their deliberations.



Morris A Winter

Chair – Kumbia Rural Watch Association

South Burnet Regional Neighbourhood Watch Association Inc

Kingaroy Community/Police Consultative Committee