



16 July 2014

The Research Director

Legal Affairs & Community Safety Committee
Parliament House

Re: Submissions for Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the review.

1. *The social and economic contributors to crime:*

The Salvation Army's prison chaplains in South Queensland, have observed that a large portion of prisoners are incarcerated due to alcohol and other drugs related issues. We believe that a full time, fully programmed, drug rehabilitation unit be provided within the remand centres for prisoners selected by magistrates, psychologists, counsellors, chaplains and other appropriate agencies. This would satisfy the judiciary's common request for drug rehabilitation as a bail or parole conditions and would make optimum use of the prisoners' incarceration time. This could be provided through outsourcing to a suitable agency.

2. *The effectiveness of crime prevention strategies:*

Chaplains have also observed a disturbing trend that some prisoners feel safe and 'at home' in prisons. Some have confided in our Chaplains that when released after considerable time in prison, they don't know how to interact in society when they feel there are no clearly defined boundaries they live in fear and feel unsafe. Many are relieved if they are again imprisoned to a place of clearly defined rules and regulations. There is a need for greater emphasis within the correctional facilities on programs that promote life skills and reintegration back into society and which link with outreach support for people exiting the prison system for a fixed period of up to 12months.



We believe that there are advantages in employing mature aged parole and Corrective Services officers who have comprehensive life skills and preferably with training in mental health and cultural awareness and have a commitment to the indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan. See

<http://www.reconciliation.org.au/programs/reconciliation-action-plans/>

3. The social and economic contributors to crime:

The Salvation Army is concerned that a large amount of money is spent on prisoners that have committed minor offences. Supervised community service seems a much better solution for minor crimes, in our view. We also support the expansion of early intervention and alternative dispute resolution programs.

4. The experiences of Queenslanders with regard to the criminal justice system:

We have observed that prisoners wait in remand for considerable time sometimes over a year, because bail is refused. These prisoners wait because they plead not guilty. If they plead guilty they serve less time. Legal aid often counsels them to plead guilty, even if they are not guilty, because they will serve less time in prison. A more streamlined justice system is required that does not leave 800-1,000 people caught in prisons on remand at any one time.

The Salvation is concerned for families when a person is incarcerated and they are left unsupported, particularly where children are concerned. We appreciate this is a complex issue, but would encourage more thought into how to address this as the ripple effects on the community when families and children lose hope is very costly.

In conclusion, we pray that God gives you and the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee wisdom in your inquiry and that sound recommendations and actions will follow.

God bless you.



The love of Christ compels us
2 Corinthians 5:14

The Salvation Army
Australia Eastern Territory



Yours sincerely,

Rick Hoffmann (Major)
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