

SUBMISSION TO THE LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE OF THE QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT IN SITTINGS HELD AT IPSWICH ON 29 JULY 2014 ON INQUIRY ON STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND REDUCE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

THE STRATEGIES FOR THE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY THAT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ABANDONED IN THE IPSWICH AREA OF RECENT TIMES ARE THOSE THAT ARE SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO AND DIRECTED TO THE TARGETTING OF THOSE THAT ARE MORE LIKELY THAN NOT TO BE ATTRACTED TO THE COMMITTING OF SERIOUS CRIME.

IT IS CLEAR THAT SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT FACTORS THAT ARE INHERENT IN THE DETERMINING OF THE CAUSES OF CRIME IN THE LOCAL AREA ARE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO -

- POVERTY
- HOMELESSNESS
- LONG TERM UNEMPLOYMENT (INCLUDING THE IMMEDIATE LOSS OF REGULAR AND CONTINUING EMPLOYMENT)
- LACK OF APPROPRIATE SOCIAL SKILLS
- LONG TERM ABUSE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS
- LOSS OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY CONNECTIONS
- LACK OF SELF-MOTIVATION AND SELF-WORTH
- FEELINGS OF HOPELESSNESS

IT CAN BE SAID THE THE COMMISSION OF SERIOUS CRIME IN THE LOCAL AREA SUCH AS OFFENCES IN THE MAIN INVOLVING PERSONAL VIOLENCE (INCLUDING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE), DRUGS, BURGLARY, HOME INVASIONS, STEALING FROM THE PERSON AND THEFT GENERALLY AS WELL AS MOST STREET OFFENCES CAN BE

2.

TRACED TO ONE OR MORE OF THOSE LEADING CAUSES.

IT IS THUS THE CASE THAT THE CAUSES OF CRIME AT A LOCAL LEVEL NEED TO BE ADDRESSED AND UNDERSTOOD AS A MATTER OF SOME URGENCY SO AS TO ENSURE THAT THE RESOURCES PRESENTLY BEING APPLIED TO THE DEALING WITH THE COMMISSION OF CRIME AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE OCCURRENCE OF THOSE FACTORS, BEING RESOURCES OF POLICE, COURTS, LEGAL SERVICES, CORRECTIVE SERVICES AND THE LIKE CAN BE THEN DIVERTED TO THE PROVIDING OF RESOURCES FOR THE IMPROVING OF LIFESTYLES AND BETTERMENT OF THE PERSON OF THE TARGET GROUP.

IT CAN BE SAID THAT THE PROVIDING OF RESOURCES FOR SERVICES TO ASSIST AND PROMOTE BETTER LIFESTYLES AS WELL AS THE PROVIDING OF ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE WHO ARE IDENTIFIED AS BEING AT RISK AND MORE THAN LIKELY AT THE THRESHOLD OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IS A WISE AND PROPER INVESTMENT FOR THE PRESENT AS WELL AS FOR THE FUTURE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

IT CAN BE SAID THAT ON THE WHOLE, THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM DOES NOT BY ITSELF OFFER ANY INCENTIVES OR BENEFITS REGARDLESS OF THE CHARACTER OR STYLE OF THE PERSON FOUND OFFENDING AND ONE OF THE MORE TROUBLESOME AREAS IN THIS RESPECT IS, IN PARTICULAR, THE EVER-INCREASING PROBLEM OF RECIDIVISM.

MOST CRIME IS OPPORTUNISTIC BEARING IN MIND THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE FACTORS SAID TO BE RELEVANT TO THE CAUSES OF CRIME.

HENCE IT IS THE CASE THAT IT IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR A COMPLETE AND

PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF AS WELL AS A RESPONSIBLE DEALING WITH THE CAUSES OF CRIME TO BE UNDERTAKEN AT A LOCAL LEVEL SO THAT SOME STRATEGIES CAN BE DEVELOPED TO DEAL WITH THE CAUSES OF CRIME LOCALLY.

THE PROVIDING OF SPECIALIST SERVICES AS A PRELIMINARY MEANS OF DIVERSION FROM AND SPECIFIC ALTERNATIVE TO THE DEALING BY THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM WITH THE RESULTANT CRIMINAL ACTIVITY DUE TO THE OCCURRENCE OF THE CAUSES OF CRIME WILL, NO DOUBT, IN THE LONG TERM BE OF BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY.

THE PROVIDING OF SELECT SPECIALIST SERVICES COULD BE UNDERTAKEN AT LOCAL LEVEL THROUGH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE THREE TIERS OF GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT APPROACH SO AS TO SHOW A UNIFORM APPROACH TO THE DEALING WITH CRIME BY ADDRESSING THOSE FACTORS WHICH ARE READILY APPARENT AS BEING THE CAUSES OF CRIME.

A WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT APPROACH IS RECOMMENDED AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT SO AS TO ENSURE ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES DEALING WITH CRIME AND ITS EFFECTS ARE THEN CONSOLIDATED IN THE ADOPTING OF A UNIFORM APPROACH TO THE ISSUES.

CRIME IS A COSTLY MATTER IN ECONOMIC TERMS TO BUSINESS, HOUSEHOLDS, GOVERNMENT AND THE TAXPAYER GENERALLY WITH THE RESULT THAT ANY ACTION TAKEN AT GOVERNMENT LEVEL TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS AND DEAL WITH THE CAUSES OF CRIME BY THE IMPROVING OF THE PERSONAL LIFESTYLE OF THOSE AT RISK WILL BE WORTHWHILE IN THE LONG TERM THROUGH NOT ONLY THE SAVING OF MONIES THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE A CONTINUING AND EVER-

4.

INCREASING FINANCIAL BURDEN TO THE COMMUNITY GENERALLY BUT ALSO A STRATEGY THAT IS OWNED BY THE COMMUNITY ITSELF.

THE STRATEGIES ARE RECOMMENDED AS BEING BEST DELIVERED BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY IN CONJUNCTION WITH GOVERNMENT AT THE THREE LEVELS IN VIEW OF THE INTERWOVEN RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT IN EACH OF THE FACTORS SAID TO LEAD TO THE CAUSES OF CRIME AT THE LOCAL LEVEL AND AT THE SAME TIME, GIVING A LOCAL FLAVOUR AND OUTCOME TO THE STRATEGIES.

SOME OF THE SPECIALIST SERVICES THAT COULD BE PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TO DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES AND WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO BE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE FACTORS THAT ARE CONSIDERED TO BE THE CAUSES OF CRIME IN THE LOCAL AREA INCLUDE

- \*SPECIALIST SKILL IMPROVEMENT COURSES
- \*SELF-MOTIVATION DEVELOPMENT
- \*ASSISTANCE WITH JOB PREPAREDNESS
- \*COUNSELLING ON A ONE TO ONE BASIS
- \*MENTORING ON A PERSONAL LEVEL
- \*PROVIDING OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AS AND WHERE NECESSARY TO DEAL WITH LIFE'S PROBLEMS

THE COMMITTEE IS EXHORTED TO GIVE FAVOURABLE CONSIDERATION TO THESE MATTERS SO THAT THE DEBATES ON THE ISSUE OF LAW AND ORDER IN THE COMMUNITY CAN THEN TAKE ON A LOCAL FLAVOUR PARTICULARLY WHERE THE OUTCOMES ARE ONES THAT ARE BOTH DEVELOPED AND OWNED BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AS BEING BOTH FAVOURABLE AND PARTICULAR TO THE NEEDS OF

THE COMMUNITY IN DEALING WITH THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND REDUCTION  
OF ITS ACTIVITY.

BARRY RYAN

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

28 JULY 2014