

Gail Easton

From: Heather Douglas [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 13 July 2012 11:55 AM
To: Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Subject: Penalties and Sentences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have read with deep concern the intention to introduce an offender levy pursuant to part 10A of the *Penalties and Sentences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012*.

This levy is likely to impact most significantly on the most vulnerable members of society. Indigenous offenders, already over represented in the criminal justice system will inevitably be the hardest hit by the introduction of such a levy.

If this levy does go ahead I hope it is placed into programs that will help to rehabilitate these offenders. Further assuming the levy is introduced the Government might also consider placing a levy on Police Prosecutions that must be paid in circumstances where charges are dismissed or individuals are found not guilty (this could operate aside from the costs orders that may also apply). This levy could be used to fund those rehabilitative programs, especially in communities where there are high numbers of Indigenous offenders, that are generally more appropriate than fines (eg Probation orders and Community service orders.)

Thanks for your time.

Heather Douglas

Heather Douglas

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