

Consent should be given to extending the functional powers of the Queensland Police Service for the purposes of enhancing their capacity, ability and willingness to provide a safe, stable and sustainable service to the Community. Existing and new powers however must be balanced with responsibilities and exercised in a fair and proper manner.

These safeguards may be delivered through engagement with professional development, training and qualitative processes of service improvement through monitoring and reviewing feedback loops. Efficient, effective and equitable outcomes can only serve to reduce the onus and burden of resource management.

More productive relationships can be focused and achieved through shared understanding, co-ordination, co-operation, consent, negotiation and communication. Expectations and obligations must be known or at least ought to be known. The disadvantaged populations of mental health, domestic violence and homelessness may fear Police owing to past experiences. Furthermore, they need to redress complex and socially grounded issues as these impact more so on indigenous and other communities. If you have inadequate or no housing, no work and little income support you are socially and economically excluded from the Community. A whole of Government response is the minimum one might expect.

Building win-win situations may be modelled on Crime Stoppers and Neighbourhood Watch and requires strategic, proactive and effective approaches to understanding and empathy. Winning hearts and minds also counters bad images of the uniform as often presented in the media. Being more human rights oriented one offers the principle of least restrictive practice as enacted in disability and mental health legislation. Fostering sound community based support and assistance offers alternatives other than the punitive arrest and serve approach that impacts again greater on disadvantaged persons.

A more inclusive human rights "Dignity and Respect approach arguably creates savings and enhances cost and risk

management and supports a safe, stable and sustainable workforce. Social contexts are landscaped and political, economic, cultural, historical and other concerns are mapped.

I feel that responsibilities must balance powers and that the Service owes a duty to ensure at a minimum sufficient and necessary education and training. The duty therefore lies with the service rather than the individual as is often the perception of professional development.

Everyone needs to belong, be respected and valued. Police and Court time also has a value so interventions and interactions need to be better managed. We must through Government, Community and Business philanthropy redress housing inadequacy and inappropriateness.

A place or places of safety, empathy, trust and understanding is long overdue and the heartbreak is overwhelming in Caboolture. Continuity of care requires more than acute hospital based care. We urgently need a domestic violence refuge and a mental health hostel.

Trusting this will be of assistance to your Committees deliberations.

Stephen Graham Brown
Social worker, community advocate and Educator.

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