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PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND
MISCONDUCT COMMITTEE

INCORRECTIONS



Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000
Facsimile: 07 3210 6011

31 October 2008

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: Three Yearly Review of the CMC

We write in relation to the above review in order to draw your attention to the noteworthy findings of the "No Vagrancy" report, commissioned last year by the following organisations: UnitingCare Queensland Centre for Social Justice, Sisters Inside, Centacare Pastoral Ministries, Brisbane Catholic Education, Queensland Council of Social Service (QCOSS), Red Cross, Queensland Shelter, Prisoners' Legal Service, Queensland Alliance, YWCA, Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ) and Deception Bay Community Youth Programs.

This report is an examination of the impact of the criminal justice system on people living in poverty in Queensland.

The report was chaired by Marg O'Donnell and Bob Weatherall and written by Dr Tamara Walsh of the University of Queensland. The report contains many relevant findings and recommendations in relation to police practices and complaints mechanisms, such as the CMC.

In particular, we draw your attention to Recommendations 8-10, extracted below.

Recommendation 8

**A coalition working together around issues of incarceration and release
for the benefit and safety of the whole community**

That the Crime and Misconduct Commission undertake an investigation into police powers related to search and seizure, with a particular focus on:

- the frequency of police searches conducted in public places;
- the frequency of strip searches conducted in the course of police investigations;
- the level of knowledge amongst members of the public regarding when a search or seizure conducted by police is lawful; and
- the extent to which the use of police powers related to search and seizure is conducted in accordance with the legislation.

Recommendation 9

That an independent inquiry into police practices be conducted, with particular attention being paid to the extent to which police productivity is measured by arrest quotas.

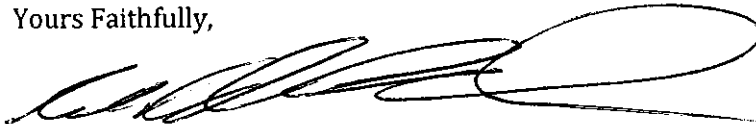
Many participants remarked that their opportunity to complain against what they perceived as unjust or inhumane treatment by police was limited. Some stated that they had attempted to make a complaint against a police officer, to the Crime and Misconduct Commission for example, and had been ignored, or had experienced difficulties in navigating the complaints system.

Recommendation 10

That the Crime and Misconduct Commission establish a police service complaints mechanism that is accessible to all community members. A best practice model that could be applied is the establishment of an 'incidents register' so that all persons who wish to lodge a complaint against a police officer may do so simply by completing a basic form.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations in your review. A full copy of the report is attached.

Yours Faithfully,



Matilda Alexander

Coordinator

Prisoners Legal Service

On behalf of the INCorrections network

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for the benefit and safety of the whole community**