



Speech by
Mr TERRY SULLIVAN
MEMBER FOR CHERMSIDE

Hansard 1 June 2000

CRIME

Mr SULLIVAN (ChermSIDE—ALP) (7.18 p.m.): The Australian Institute of Criminology, under the directorship of Professor Adam Graycar, does an excellent job in the work it has been assigned to do by the Federal Government. This federally funded body assembles statistics and monitors social attitudes and performances of various groups involved in crime and crime prevention across all jurisdictions within Australia. It also has access to research within Australia and overseas.

Consistently, the AIC reports that the fear of crime is considerably greater than the actual likelihood of a person becoming a victim of crime. This difference between the perception of crime and the fear of becoming a victim and the actual occurrence or likelihood of being a victim is brought about by a few things within our society, one of which is the media, which tends to sensationalise crimes. Perhaps the disgraceful act of an attack on an older person is highlighted and older persons then think they are the people most likely to be attacked, whereas the figures show that it is young men who are most likely to be victims of crime.

The other factor we saw tonight—that is the Opposition blowing out of all proportion the crime statistics and crime figures. It is an absolute disgrace that particularly older persons feel that they have to lock themselves in their homes, feel that they cannot sleep and feel daily that they are going to be a victim of crime because people like the shadow Minister for Police, the member for Callide and others blow out of all proportion the crime statistics and the crime situation in our State. They ought to have greater responsibility in the work they do. There is no doubt that a victim of crime does suffer. I know and my family knows that from first-hand experience. But the fear that members opposite have put into particularly the older people in my electorate is disgraceful.

Time expired.
