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NSW JUSTICE ADVOCACY CENTRE INC.

BY:.....

To the Honourable members

The federal government should and must maintain a major role in crime fighting, crime prevention, and the protection of victims, and human rights in general.

Federal government should have the right to prevent crime increases, huge prison population increases that result from law and order auctions, that are now a feature of elections Australia wide.

Federal government should work to standardising state laws so all people are equal before the law regardless of state religion race, or social and economic standing.

Federal government can begin to reduce crime by simple changes in administrative policy,

We are now the proud country that presides over 110,000-recorded homeless, the criminalisation of the sick; NSW is now building new prisons just to house the mentally ill.

State governments are handing out penalties without thought of future consequences.

Minor petty offences are treated in the same manor as major drug importers.

A 3-month sentence for shoplifting for the majority of offerers means the loss of all goods and chattels home, possessions and a guarantees most will become repeat offenders and spend the rest of there lives in and out of prison. Many will learn new crime skills and go on to major crime in the future.

The states with the lowest imprisonment rate and the lowest crime rate are now joining the rush to develop new prisons, based on the myth; prisons create industry jobs and public safety.

The Federal government has a duty to inform the public of the true facts, prisons cost money, if they continue to grow at their current rate will by the year 2020 will bankrupt governments. Forward estimations clearly show future liabilities the areas of pensions long service and ancillary payments are no longer fundable at current population figures.

The prison industry also presents us with the same black hole.

Australian citizens are now safer that they have ever been in history homicide is now 20 time lower than a century ago rape is 20 to 30 times less prevalent, yet during this period the penalties for these crimes



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was death, so clearly harsher penalties do not reduce crime(the reverse applies) The more punitive the state becomes the more dangerous its criminals become.

The USA with out doubt has the toughest policing the harshest penalties the most goals and the largest prison populations and ofcourse is one of the most dangerous places in the world to walk the streets overall.

There are other cities in the world that of course are just as dangerous But do we want to follow the USA.

We can reduce crime and the fear of crime.

The federal government must begin to reassure the public that Australia is safer than ever before.

The truth may not help pork barrelling and electioneering based on fear and untruths, but the reduction of fear in the community well increase productivity will assist population growth and we will enjoy the admiration of the rest of the world.

The federal government must maintain the separation of powers governments must stay out of the courts policing and prisons.

The media must be forced to obey the rules, as media driven crime is a danger we must stamp out.

A better educated better informed and a more in lighted Australia is a place with hordes of homeless hungry and desperate people aren't cued up waiting to be imprisoned. Where the sick are not jailed and where the public are not hoodwinked by media spin-doctors for personal gain.

Yours sincerely
Eric McCormack