

**Submission  
No 77**

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY IN REGIONAL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES**

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The growing divide between rich and poor in Australia is leading to increased crime as harboured resentment explodes.

I have worked as an educator with youth for over thirty years in both TAFE and university sectors in the social justice arena and have never found young people as disenchanted and demoralised about their future prospects.

They no longer aspire to a university education as a strategy for climbing out of poverty and realising their dreams of buying a home and giving their children more than their parents could give them. I am demoralised too. I feel I have sold students a fiction. Those that have struggled and worked hard to complete a university education are still not able to rise out of poverty and give their family the stability and security of their own home.

Younger siblings will decide to take what is not shared in any means they can. Hence increased crime rates around the world as the divide grows. How long before Australia experiences kidnapping and ransoms of children as has happened in other countries with great disparity of wealth? Australia must do all it can to share wealth more fairly to prevent crime waves which hurt us all.