

**Submission
No 87**

COMMUNITY SAFETY IN REGIONAL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

Name: Mr Gordon Popple

Date Received: 27 May 2024

I am a resident of the Kempsey Shire Council area. I have been the subject of three attempted break and enters to a property I own in the last twelve months.,Police attended and took fingerprints. Inquiries by me a made at Kempsey Police station did not reveal to me the extent of their inquiries or was i ever advised that some one had been charged but it was apparent that the offenders were juveniles.

I am concerned that the Young Offenders ACT 1997 from my reading of the Act gives young offenders comming offences not covered by Section 8(2) offences every opportunity to be processed without any worthwhile penalty being imposed. There does not seem to be any limit to the number of times that young offenders can be death with and avoid coming before a Childrens Court. How many chances are young offenders entitled to before they eventually appear before the Childrens Court? In cases where defendants appear in Court a repeat offender can be dealt with by Youth Justice Conferencing.Both these outcomes are not transparent to the vicitim unless the offender is made to give a written apology.

My submission is there is too much secrecy surrounding the process and the public is entitled to know the offenders age, sex, street of his or her residence,number of prior court appearances, the full circumstances of the offence, reasons for the court order. Repeat offenders over the age of sixteen should be named.

This information is necessary so that victims have some knowledge and understanding who is tarketing their home and property and how to avoid being further impacted by crime in their areas.

Lastly, at South West Rocks the local Police Station is rarely open with officers able to assist when an emergency occurs. This is is common knowledge to the locals and

no doubt to the criminal element.The Police are doing their best but are handicapped by being located at Kempsey.The Station at SWR is nothing more than police call box. The public are entitled to some honesty by the Minister of Police as to the level of policing at SWR. Policing in this town is not preventative but merely reactionaey to unfolding events.