Submission No 95

COMMUNITY SAFETY IN REGIONAL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

Name: Ms Robin Ritchie

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Unsafe in my own home...Three youth run up my driveway wearing Balaclava's with weapons in hand, as I was unpacking my shopping from car, is one of many incidents...children as young as eight, ten years old carrying knives onto my property and threatening me....many older males and females using my property for shooting up drugs, a number of needles found, also three ten year Olds burnt down an adjoining property an older boy was seen kicking football through house windows in back and front of house to combustion flames apparently when the younger ones went after onto property and lite fire..seen running from property, climbed on near by garage roof to watch it burn. Older teens and adults carrying machetes samurai swords, golf clubs, knives Hammers, and, axes around Streets in the area... people fearful to walk streets or go out after dark. There are loud bangs and dog's roaming the streets all throughout the night and early hours of the morning.... fences on my property constantly being damaged, other people and dog's than entering my property constantly trespassing. My dog was mauled to death by two other dogs, on its own property. after palings was removed to gain access to neighbours adjoining property. I have a small dog now and I am terrified of the same fate happening to it...as they are still removing and damaging my fences on my property...as anointing several Community housing properties, also a few years ago a man was found deceased at the bottom of my drive way, across on the medium strip in middle of road I was working when this happened and my daughter and grandchildren were staying at the house and was traumatised by the incident, also, the drug use of neighbours and suicide of a neighbour. Elderly attacked, threatened in their own homes and driven out of their homes it's very disturbing indeed, shots heard and cars, houses burnt out around you. I have lived here for twenty four years and have watched the downward spiral of this neighbourhood as there seems to be little done to keep law and order here as police say they are doing their best yet sometimes if not most, doesn't seem to be effective enough as they are times don't come when called, you sit on the phone sometimes for up to two hours, to get an event number for an incident you have witnessed and are reporting. It's unpredictable as not enough staff or cars on patrol at times and, when they do come ...they seem to be place the blame on the court and justice systemsthey are driving the better law abiding people out of the town...this is just a few things that we are experiencing here in Kempsey. I am submitting this for your consideration as my mental and physical health is now also suffering as there seems to be very little if any accountability for the offenders actions.

Yours sincerely	
Robin Ritchie	