

**Submission  
No 97**

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

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The fear in the regional towns grown dramatically in recent years. Youth crime, brazen theft of property, including cars, home invasions and absolute contempt for people's safety and property have been eroded to a point where people are so concerned they feel trapped in their own houses, just waiting to become another victim.

The young offenders revolve in and out of the courts and there is virtually no consequence for their actions, this is very frustrating for the victims, the community and the police. Once a person has been robbed or worse still, been confronted with a home invasion, they never recover. The fear perpetuates and their quality of life greatly diminishes.

Drugs issues, idle youth who don't work by choice due to the lucrative welfare system rampage within our community destroying lives of good citizens.

People won't want live in communities where there are only part time policing or where the offenders are back out in the streets to reoffend. The emotional costs are enormous, not forgetting to mention the financial costs. Insurance costs have spiralled due to postcodes where the crimes are prevalent. Dramatic change is needed in the way youth are processed through the courts. Once they choose to offend they must have the consequence of incarceration, for the sake of our communities.