

**Submission
No 128**

COMMUNITY SAFETY IN REGIONAL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

Name: Mrs Colleen Fuller

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I have been on Crime Prevention for 18years.I have never seen anything like this in all my years in Gunnedah.

I have witnessed elderly people being broken into their cars stolen and personal belongings. Even down to a young man returning after a long day at worked being stabbed getting out of his vehicle own house with an attempted break in which the police got him. Known offender we have more camera in which police past have checked.

As Chair of Crime Prevention for 16 Years witnessed the top ten in the state in around 2010 for Alcohol we worked hard to reduce and won a National award for the work thanks to our Team. Today I work with a couple of young girls who got caught up in the court system with the care and making them responsible for the damage they did have now turned their lives around back in the Tafe education system and now studying for the school certificate.

These young offenders have to be put into programs like Black Track programs the magistrates need to send them away from the places that they cause trouble in. Drugs are so easy to get hold of in our towns.

Hanging on the end of a phone for police is ridiculous almost four minutes after the recording the hot lines are a waste of time. A police officer told us to lock our keys away well sorry take the car no one wants to be bashed for a car or money.

I have lists a mile long that will not fit into my submission. As the longest serving Councillor work hard with a great team on Crime prevention members. Gunnedah held the first Crime Prevention Conference in the State with great success most of the strategies need money and that we have not had to be able to set up the Programs needed.

So we hope that Government can start directing out to Programs that can work with the young offenders. Magistrate to have the powers to do more then a slap on the wrist if you rob and bash people you should not be walking out of a court room with no accountability for what you have done .I ask that this be given quick attention be for someone is killed as people have now got there guns ready for their protection and that is not acceptable but when they are locked and some one wants to break in then they are defending their families. Thank you for accepting my submission. Colleen Fuller.