

**Submission  
No 159**

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

**Name:** Mr John Kearns

**Date Received:** 31 May 2024

I thank you for the opportunity to submit some information to the inquiry.

The presence of adequate policing in small communities such as mine is of paramount importance for the following reasons:-

Law and Order

Community Safety and Assurance

Respect and confidence in the Police and their work

Public relations and respect for the Police Force

Satisfaction for the Officers themselves

Protection of Community facilities

There are no doubt other personal experiences, which would also add to my comments.

I feel that the above issues are not being met because of:-

Lack of Establishment numbers at Regional Stations, further hampered by utilizing limited numbers to other areas instead of being able to perform their work at a local level. This situation has been in place for a number of years and needs to be reversed, with recruitment allowing for restoration of numbers.

A continual comment I hear in the community is, that they have not had phone calls answered at the local level in the first instance and there have been occasions, that they have not received response from extension lines and visits to the station to talk to officers, has failed due to non-attendance.

A minor issue was the action to remove the household telephone number for local police changed to a number that no one can remember.

Personally I have great faith in the local Police and the above matters do not reflect on their efficiency and care for the community, like any profession they deserve utmost respect and support, something that has been eroded in recent years, through no fault of their own.

I will be happy to assist in any way possible to the inquiry if need be,

Yours Faithfully

John KEARNS (OAM)

████████████████████

31.5.24