

**Submission  
No 167**

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

**Name:** Mrs Susan C. Dunn  
**Date Received:** 23 May 2024

Susan C. Dunn

Submission to the  
NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Community Safety in Regional  
And Rural Communities

. This is my personal, individual Submission.

. My name is (Mrs.) Susan C. Dunn, OAM

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. I'm aware of this Inquiry as - as well as living in Sydney I have lived in other areas such as Bourke, Emmaville and now Armidale. I have also travelled widely. I have also been involved in different ways in Aboriginal Affairs since 1967. I am not Aboriginal. I am, of course, very interested in overall community safety.

. I am mailing this to: Committee Manager, Law & Safety Committee,  
NSW Legislative Assembly, 6 Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

## NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Community Safety in Regional and Rural Communities

- . I believe that community safety issues most often come about as a result of social issues – often generational – of disadvantage and absence of realistic and sustained programs to deal with the subsequent offenders. Parental factors are also relevant and must be considered overall in realistic solutions.
- . It is appalling to hear – in Armidale at least – that there are no available Court ordered programs until offenders are 18 years old. The wonderful Back Track initiative here is independent of Government initiatives and can only take on a certain number of children.
- . It also seems that Circle Sentencing and Distributive Justice are not part of the way the Law deals with young offenders here.
- . Surely it is critically important that children have appropriate programs towards successful redirection in their lives when they have offended. Leaving them until they are 18 to face the probability of entrenched behaviours before alternatives are offered seems counterproductive and expensive from all points of view. Inconsistent funding of successful programs is an ongoing problem.
- . Today's social media, peer pressures, economic hardships, inadequate housing and inadequate programs are only encouraging the anti-social behaviour that hurts them and us all.