



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE

MEDIA RELEASE

TREATMENT OF INMATES SERVING LIFE SENTENCES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11 September 2015

An Upper House inquiry has been established to examine the security classification and custodial management of inmates sentenced to life imprisonment.

It has been reported that prisoners facing life behind bars have been reclassified from maximum security prisons to medium and minimum security facilities, resulting in concerns that these inmates are being treated too leniently, especially considering the seriousness of their crimes.

Committee Chair, the Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, said: 'The committee will consider whether current practices for determining the security classification and custodial management are appropriate for inmates sentenced to life imprisonment. We will also consider whether current practices are impacting on registered victims and the role of these victims in the classification and management decision-making processes'.

'The committee will also investigate the appropriateness of inmates sentenced to life imprisonment receiving access to rehabilitative programs considering many have little to no chance of being released into the community', Mrs Maclaren-Jones continued.

'For the purposes of this inquiry the committee will be focusing on only the most serious cases; that is inmates serving a sentence of life imprisonment for either the term of their natural lives or are subject to non-release recommendations, or are serving an existing life sentence without a specified term and non-parole period set', Mrs Maclaren-Jones concluded.

The closing date for submissions is Sunday 25 October 2015. The committee intends to hold public hearings in November.

For further information about the inquiry, including its terms of reference, or for more information on how to make a submission, please go to our website: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandjustice, or call the committee secretariat on (02) 9230 3544.

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, Mrs Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, on 9230 2836.