

**Submission
No 3**

**INQUIRY INTO SECURITY CLASSIFICATION AND
MANAGEMENT OF INMATES SENTENCED TO LIFE
IMPRISONMENT**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

To The Director
Standing Committee on Law and Justice,
Parliament House,
Macquarie St,
Sydney, N.S.W 2000

Dear-sir/madam,

I'm a retired nursing sister. I will try to keep this letter focused on your inquiry - "security classification and management of inmates sentenced to life imprisonment".

Firstly I've had reason to visit all the maximum security prisons in Sydney, including H.M. Parramatta of old. And I had numerous visits to Goulburn Prison in the 1980's.

Does every life time prisoner have to be dandered with the same brush? - so to speak. In time we know there are those who are ready to co-operate - to rehabilitate, and with the wisdom and discernment of the SORC and management to be given an M classification. I know for a fact that these classifications are not easily attainable.

x.

And they are monitored.

When accepted does not this help prison management the community at large, and of course the prisoner himself and be cost effective?

I've known the Special Care Unit of yesteryear to help life time inmates greatly - to be a springboard for actual improvement and progress.

Already inmates have lost their freedom, they live in a constrained environment. They have to live among other inmates - subject to the honors some can provide.

To me, to have all life time inmates to retain a maximum security classification would be catastrophic in the extreme. We know something of the history of Goulburn Prison - the murders there over the years - the depression and hopelessness of long term inmates, who don't progress.

Regarding registered victims, some may care for more communication, more assurance, more explanation from prison management. Would they ever hear or want to hear anything good about the progress of the offender?

As it is, imprisonment always entails suffering that could be more punishing than prison for life? When the trial is over and the offender has been sentenced, he has the right to serve his sentence without interference

drawn the victim, the public or politicians. 3.

In the compassionate way the Government can help victims, rather than seeking to inflict further punishment on the offenders?

A document of "Justice Action" has just come to hand. I agree with all of it

eg. "the only consideration in the reclassification of lifers should be security. It is neither just nor effective for lifers to be assessed based on the political climate that exists outside their cells"

Removing the possibility of reclassification also removes any incentive for lifers to behave well and refrain from harming themselves and others"

also "There is no positive outcome to be gained by informing politicians, media or victims of changes to the management of a sentence. It could only disturb the victim and cause interference with the prisoner"

When we see questioned rehabilitation for those not destined for release, let us remember if we will, that one day they will be released - to eternal life. This life without

end may well depend on the way we have helped them to become better people - do acknowledge their crimes to become constructive

In concluding I will mention that I have followed inmate

progress through the prison system for
thirty-five years - since my first visit to him

you could benefit well by meeting him,
speaking to him. He has held a C classification
for twenty-two years - has co-operated with
people in the prison system who have worked
with him - is helping those around him, has
become productive for so much good. He is
responsible - holds himself accountable for his
crime - is contrite for what happened about
forty years ago - is no threat in prison or to the
community. As you would know, he
was recently moved to Goulburn, where
it all began. He is now a mature Christian.

I have the greatest respect for him. He is an
example to me. I trust that at least he
will be moved back to Long Bay, pending
the result of the inquiry.