

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 27/10/2015

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Partially Confidential

Dear Sir

I am writing in response to your letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 asking for my contribution into the security classification and management of inmates that are sentenced to life imprisonment.

I am one of those inmates serving a life sentence with no prospects for parole, however I would like to say that all prisoners have the right to fair justice by Corrective Services, Serious Offenders Review Council and the Legislative Council.

We have been sentenced by the courts and now comply to the standing policies handed down to Corrective Services by you, the Legislative Council Parliament NSW.

It is my belief that the Legislation needs to be changed in order to give all lifers the same rights as all other inmates: i.e. to be able to progress through the system. Corrective Services has a job to do and shouldn't be swayed by the community. It should be their sole duty to do the job that has been given to them, and not that of other government bodies, nor the community.

Our classifications should be determined by our prison records, our behaviour, our work reports, staff reports and management reports and the decisions made by the Corrective Services Minister and the Commissioner. The community should not be involved in the process at all.

We have already been sentenced by the courts and yet we are still being punished. Where does rehabilitation start? It is the media in general, and the community that don't like a reward system. Some people choose to live in the dark ages and refuse to educate themselves to new policies. There are those that believe lifers deserve absolutely nothing.

I believe it costs in excess of \$100,000.00 per annum to house, feed and clothe just one inmate who is serving a sentence of 12 months or less... what must the cost be to the community to keep a lifer? I am sure the cost would be well in excess of \$100,000.00 per annum when you start adding in things like medical expenses and ongoing medical treatment.

I don't know why you ask for lifers to give you submissions and give you our thoughts of the law reforms and classifications when you have already made up your minds to not allow lifers to be given the chance at some sort of life behind bars. When being sentenced, I do not recall the judge saying "hard labour" or "to live in hardship for the rest of his natural life". Truth in sentencing says nothing about not being able to advance through the system the same as any other inmate, and neither did it say anything about receiving absolutely no reward for good behaviour.

Our punishment was to be locked away from our family, friends, and society for life. Giving hope gives us a reason to be well behaved, and also to not cause harm to other inmates, staff or ourselves. The chance of advancement gives us something to work towards. It gives us a reason to live.

I believe if a lifer was given the opportunity of release, he/she would not return to prison or be put in a situation that would land them back in prison.

Since the recent media coverage leading to all lifers being placed back into maximum security, it has placed my life in danger due to the fact that the Serious Offenders Review Council informed that my classification had been lowered from that of A2 to B. there is little to no difference between an A2 and a B classification given that I am currently housed with people who are B classification. You are still behind walls with towers. If we are not allowed to progress through the system, then why call it Corrective Services? And if we are not allowed the opportunity to advance then at least give us the option of voluntary death, so as to at least alleviate the cost to the community.

If you choose to place what I have written on your website, I have no problem with that, other than to ask that my name not be used.

I am not an Australian citizen as my visa was cancelled back in 2006 as I was deemed to not be of good character. I have been told by immigration that I am subject to deportation. Either I continue to be a financial burden on the Australian community, or I become a financial burden to the U.K.

When and where do you determine how much longer you control our lives?

Corrective Services has been given a job to do in so far as managing us. Let them do the job they have been given, without external influence.

Regards