

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

Organisation: Support After Murder Inc.

Date received: 23/10/2015

SUPPORT AFTER MURDER INC.

"moving on with support"

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The Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC

Chair,

Standing Committee on Law and Justice,

Parliament House,

Sydney.

Good Morning,

I write to introduce myself and my organisation Support After Murder Inc.

On the 2nd August 1994 my best friend and partner, Stephen Dempsey, was murdered at Deep Creek, Narrabeen, by Richard Leonard. Stephen's body was cut up and transported to Leonard's flat, at North Narrabeen and stored in a refrigerator for approximately 3 and a half months. Leonard then murdered a taxi driver, Ezzedine Bahmad, at Collaroy Plateau. Leonard pleaded guilty to Mr. Bahmad's murder and was found guilty of Stephen's murder and was sentenced to "Life Imprisonment"

I am writing this submission on behalf of Support After Murder Inc an organisation of which I am President.

I would like to begin my submission by stating I have just had my name placed on the Victims Register at Corrective Services. This may seem strange 21 years after Stephen's and Ezzedine's murder but I didn't realise the importance of it until Ms. Christine Simpson brought it to my attention.

If this had been an "opt out" system rather than an "opt in" system I would have automatically been in the system. This is important because the majority of "victims" are certainly in no state to even consider the necessities at the time of the sentencing of the murderer of their loved ones.

{B}We feel that there should be no change to the classification of inmates serving a sentence of "Life Imprisonment" . However if there is to be any change in classification the registered victim should be consulted and should be involved in the process.

(C)We feel once again that the "Registered Victim" must be consulted prior to any decision being made and that communication should be made both in writing or email and by telephone.

(D) We feel that it is inappropriate to reclassify and provide inmates sentenced to "Life Imprisonment" with access to rehabilitative programs and services if they have little or no

prospects of release from custody. The last part of this statement is slightly ambiguous as we understand that we are referring to inmates sentenced to "Life Imprisonment" . We feel sure that taxpayers money spent on these courses could be much better spent on the prison system for example employing more people in the Victims Register Department.

I trust this information is sufficient to the needs of the Inquiry and if any clarification is needed or I am required to give evidence personally, I can be contacted on

Yours Sincerely

PETER ROLFE
PRESIDENT

22/10/2015