

**INQUIRY INTO COMMUNITY BASED SENTENCING  
OPTIONS FOR RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS AND  
DISADVANTAGED POPULATIONS**

**Organisation:** Community Relations Commission  
**Name:** Mr Stepan Kerkyasharian AM  
**Position:** Chairperson  
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**Date Received:** 15/03/2005

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**Theme:**

**Summary:**

# Community Relations Commission

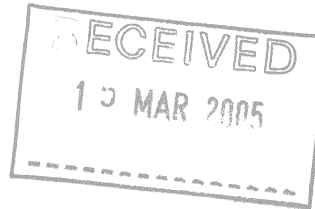
For a multicultural NSW

Our Ref: PG 6794

File Ref:

Ms Rachel Callinan  
Director  
Standing Committee on Law and Justice  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

9 MAR 2005



Dear Ms Callinan

I write in response to your letter dated 28 January 2005, seeking submissions for the Inquiry into community based sentencing options for rural and remote areas and special need/disadvantaged populations.

The Commission is pleased to note that offenders from language backgrounds other than English have been considered within the section on disadvantaged populations on page four of the *Discussion Paper*.

The Commission is aware that there is little understanding of community based sentencing options amongst ethnic communities living in rural and regional NSW. Furthermore, members of ethnic communities living in remote communities can face greater disadvantage due to isolation and the lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate support services in their local area.

The Commission recommends, therefore, that future initiatives in community based sentencing are accompanied by a comprehensive communication strategy, which includes a range of information channels accessed by people from language backgrounds other than English living in regional and rural areas.

The Commission recommends also that any future community based sentencing initiatives in remote areas should be implemented in a way that gives due consideration to the language, cultural and religious background of the offender.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stepan Kerkyasharian". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a horizontal line.

Stepan Kerkyasharian AM  
Chairperson

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