

New South Wales Sentencing Council, Room 1.20
GPO Box 31,
Sydney 2000

Submission review of sentencing for murder and manslaughter.

I appreciate the chance to give my opinion regarding mandatory sentencing. This gives the offender no incentive at all under the legislation to change their behaviour. This total lack of hope could also lead to aggressive behaviour and disruption in prison as there is nothing to lose.

The existing law also removes the discretionary authority of the judges at the moment the prisoner is found guilty. All hope is automatically removed till he/she dies in prison.

If prisoners no longer hold a threat to society they should be given a chance to live a life after paying the price for the offence that has been committed. As this law operates at present compassion and humanity can play no part. Surely we as Australians are better than this.

I am a Christian and believe strongly in the concept of rehabilitation and forgiveness. I am 96 years old and my desire for this has not diminished. I urge the government of New South Wales to repeal this legislation in the very near future, thus bringing the country in line with many other countries that have progressive thoughts on this matter.

Yours sincerely,
Joyce Page.