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22nd January 2020

NSW Sentencing Council

GPO Box 31

SYDNEY NSW 2001

To Whom It May Concern

Re SENTENCING REVIEW FOR MURDER/MANSLAUGHTER

I humbly wish to make a submission to amend the sentencing laws regarding murder and manslaughter. My points are:

1. NSW is the only Australian jurisdiction where parole is not available for life sentences.
2. The point of never ever being released till death results in a life totally devoid of hope, and it would be almost impossible to be positive in this punitive situation.
3. Even though the prisoner has shown great improvement and positivity in the system, over many years, this can never be taken into account under the existing legislation.
4. If the prisoner concerned will definitely pose no threat to society let us be humane and show clemency.
5. If the prisoner has no family or relatives in Australia, as is often the case, visits are few. If released most of these prisoners would almost certainly return to their homelands and family.
6. If legislation introducing discretionary sentencing was passed in the Parliament, the concept of rehabilitation would have meaning and give prisoners an aim to work towards.
7. A significant issue concerns the economic cost to taxpayers, as the amount to keep one person in prison for a year is at least \$80,000 if not more. Surely this could be put to better use.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Yours sincerely

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