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To: [sentencingcouncil](#)
Subject: Review in sentencing
Date: Friday, 7 February 2020 3:12:23 PM

NSW Sentencing Council
GPO Box 31
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Dear Council Members
Submission - Review of sentencing for murder and manslaughter

I write as an ordinary citizen who has small chance of being imprisoned and whose friends and family and friends enjoy the same expectations.

I also write as a lover of our country, it's values and various attributes, some of which are frequently vaunted beneath the umbrella phrase of "a fair go". A strange ethos, perhaps, when the issue at hand involves some very unpleasant behaviours: yet surely we pay at least lip service to the rehabilitative aspect of penal punishment which is nullified by mandatory truth in sentencing.

I would suggest that many of us experience times when, without hope (which this law extinguishes), however frail or nebulous, we would, in a popular phrase, ' go under ' or even ' go to the bad .' The positive effect of this lifeline applies to most of us, not only the ' good ', respectable people.

More practically, with no prospect of release what motivation to behave in a way that will lead to freedom? And the reverse, why bother to adjust ones behaviour if nothing is going to change one's situation ? All of which can impinge adversely on those around

the recipient of such a sentence, fellow inmates, custodians and putative victims.

I accept that there are those who will forever be rightly seen as a threat to themselves and/or society and the possible role ' life ' might play in those cases. However, my cursory reading causes me to wonder ? worry ? that this particular net is too widely cast.

Finally, as someone who has had a little and limited experience of societies where the powers are not separated: the same is a bedrock in the democratic societies such as ours yet the law under discussion removes the autonomy of the judge.

I congratulate whoever urged the establishment of this Council and hope and believe that all its members will approach this subject in good faith.

Julie Marshall


Sent from my iPad