

Community Relations Commission

For a multicultural NSW

Your Ref:
Our Ref: RB xtn 6815
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23 MAY 2011

The Hon J Cripps QC
Chairperson
The NSW Sentencing Council
GPO Box 6
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Head Office
Level 8
175 Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000
PO Box A2618
Sydney South NSW 1235
Tel: (02) 8255 6767
TTY: (02) 8255 6758
Fax: (02) 8255 6868

Wollongong Office
84 Crown Street
Wollongong NSW 2500
PO Box 363
Wollongong NSW 2520
Tel: (02) 4224 9922
Fax: (02) 4224 9933

Newcastle Office
Government Office Block
117 Bull Street
Newcastle NSW 2300
Tel: (02) 4929 4191
Fax: (02) 4929 7369

Website
www.crc.nsw.gov.au
ABN 79 863 510 875



Dear Mr Cripps

Thank you for forwarding to the Community Relations Commission the consultation paper *Sentencing Serious Violent Offenders* dated May 2011, for comment. The Commission offers the following in response to the consultation.

Cultural diversity is not a relevant factor in determining attributes of cohorts in the context of serious violent offenders, nor for any such category of offenders. It is in this context that the Commission notes with approval that ethnicity of offenders is not a factor for consideration in the subject matter of the consultation paper.

Contained within the consultation paper is a reference to the opportunity for offenders to participate in rehabilitation programs. Such programs must be offered and conducted in a manner that is culturally appropriate to the recipient to enhance the chances of achieving successful outcomes.

Offenders in the correctional system must have appropriate access to interpreting and translation services. This is especially important in the context of respect of rights and responsibilities whenever significant decisions are to be made about an inmate's living conditions, access to programs and services, or sentencing.

The Commission looks forward to receiving information on the outcomes of the consultation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stepan Kerkyasharian', written over a white background.

Stepan Kerkyasharian AO
Chairperson

