

From: Alan Snowsill
Sent: Monday, 14 November 2011
Subject: Juvenile Justice

Good morning

My sincere apology for this late response and I thank you once again for your presentation at Kempsey last Wednesday.

I offer my comments and worries as they come to mind.

We have a massive problem in the Kempsey District with drugs alcohol break and enters, bashings and more recently causing death to elderly residents here and I praise the Police for their ongoing pursuit to arrest those committing these crimes.

With the Young Offenders Act here in Kempsey and what I hear about is the number of young offenders who are picked up and on returning them to their supposed residence find that no one is at home or the parents inebriated and as such the young offenders are released.

How many of these releases are later followed up by the Police.

It always was a serious problem but more recently has been running out of control in Kempsey where teenagers or younger running round out of control with vandalism break and enters and theft and with very little success of arrests by the Police. You really have to question what is happening here.

We are to receive two Police dogs one drug and the other one a general duty dog which we all hope will assist with arrests.

I pose the question here and I recall that with a cost of \$650 per day to impose a jail sentence on young offenders why cannot three strikes and you are out be imposed with young offenders. To my way of thinking this will at least be there to possible discourage them that they cannot get away with everything till they turn 18 years of age and then we just jail them.

These young children here in Kempsey who are mainly Indigenous have absolutely no respect for anything or anybody, anywhere or at anytime.

I cannot forgive Mr Costello for bringing in the \$5000 payment for having a child.....this has been to my thinking the start of collecting the money by the mothers and then walking away from the responsibility of raising the children.

Hand in hand then goes truancy at schools.

I believe this is a huge problem with schools in the Kempsey District and there is the possibility of a massive cover up and as we learnt at your conference there are 2 officers from Port Macquarie to Grafton to control this!

That alone is a serious problem and goes nowhere near enough staff for the problem.

Why is it not possible to put the responsibility of truancy back on the teachers and make them more responsible.

The suggestion that came out of the Education Department that they are going to pay \$1000 per student to the school for non truancy is ridiculous. Surely this is part and parcel of the teachers responsibility on a day to day basis.

I make the comment here and although I sincerely congratulate the Seventh Day Adventist School at South Kempsey they experience nowhere near if any, truancy with their day to day teaching.

In summing up may I state that although we have a high dependency on Centre Link due to unemployment something has to be done urgently to change the Young Offenders Act which will not work when you have irresponsible parenting which we experience here in Kempsey.

Last but not least I state that a lot more could have been done by the Kempsey Shire Council over the past 25 years to encourage business to relocate here which would have offered more employment possibilities to those who now trash our society and this must be stopped immediately.

Kind regards

Clr Alan Snowsill