

Submission into Family Violence Orders

6/7/24

I am writing this submission because I work at NSW Corrective Services and like so many of us working with male offenders of both Domestic and Sexual Abuse, we are fed up with the sentencing laws.

These men are receiving such short sentences after being in remand for too long, that they are spending months in gaol instead of years. This issue is three-fold. The victims don't have enough time to safely get their lives sorted (moving, new job, schools for children) and why should the victim leave? The perpetrators should be made to leave.

Secondly, the sentences are so short there is no time in custody to do offence-based programs. It takes a long time to change the mentality of DV perpetrators. A 10-week course does NOT WORK. There are a few issues with the selection criteria for inmates who are sex offenders and /or DV Offenders and to be honest they need an overhaul. Many men are being released having done no programs due to time constraints. Once upon a time the offenders were kept in custody past their release date to complete programs, now they are being released having done no programs. Federal sex offenders are being released without community supervision and having done no programs due to lack of staff. It's a massive problem as online sex offences are rife. Also, they are being housed together in goals so they can create more "rings" when released.

The determination of program suitability is complicated to those who don't work in the department however it seems that less and less inmates are deemed program eligible and we believe its due to cost cutting. My fear is community safety when these people are released. I thought that was the whole reason the department existed, It seems not.

I have worked in DCJ for 14 and a half years and am becoming disillusioned with the repeat offenders who are not being treated. The DV programs probably need to be much longer and more intense like the violent Offender Treatment Program and Sex Offender programs. I have seen DV offenders in my program who over 10 weeks just start to make progress, they complete the program get released and within a year they are back in prison having re-offended. These 10-week programs just don't work.

I also believe people like Andrew Tate will breed a new generation of misogyny and DV and sex offenders. He truly needs to be banned from the internet somehow.

If anyone wishes to talk with me about these issues I'm more than happy to meet or have a phone call.

Thanking you

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