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From: keith jones

Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2001 12:06 AM

To: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Subject: Inquiry into the provisions of the Human Rights (Mandatory Sentencing for Property Offences) Bill 2000.

Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee, re the above inquiry. As an ordinary citizen of Western Australia I speak for myself and those who I know well in my suburb. We are totally opposed to any attempt by the Federal Government to override the "Three Strikes" law which is within the legal framework of this state. I outline our objections to this as follows:-

- 1.) The law was introduced by the previous Government in this state in response to massive public outcry over escalating home burglary and constant repetition of this crime by hard core offenders. Our courts were seen to be incapable of getting such offenders off the streets and this law took responsibility for doing so.
- 2.) The fact is that this particular law only incarcerates an offender on the third conviction, which is still very lenient. It takes no account of the fact that the offender could have actually been committing his three hundredth burglary when being "unfortunate" enough to get caught for the third time.
- 3.) It is utterly irrelevant in this inquiry to invoke international treaties on the "rights of the child." Such agreements were made in regard to blatant abuse of children in the practices of other countries elsewhere, and they are not applicable to 17 and 18 year olds who persistently abuse society in this state. Anybody who has had their home burgled and trashed by one of these particular "children" has a very strong reality on this. They are apt to ask politicians very awkward questions about their rights as citizens.
- 4.) There has been persistent raucous protest against the "three strikes" law in WA by certain groups who are opposed to the certainty of incarceration for repeat offenders. It appears that these groups are the most likely to be directly affected by such a law. They somehow miss the point about where society will draw the line between unruly children, and very adult 17 and 18 year olds committing very adult crimes.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission. Yours Sincerely,

Keith Jones.