

7th December 2011.

Daryl Wescombe
1-3 Mitchell St
Dareton NSW 2717.

PH: 0428125113

Review of the YOA and the CCPA
Legislation, Policy and Criminal Law review
Department of Attorney general and Justice.
GPO Box 6
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Review of Juvenile Offenders Law

I have read through the legislation provided via your website
www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.

Much of this I agree with as gaol is not conducive to good outcomes for young offenders; in fact they only learn more "tricks of the trade" from this experience. In saying that, the current legislation is not working either. There appears to be minimal emphasis placed on the adverse outcomes for the victims of these crimes, often instigated by repeat offenders.

In our local Shire being the Shire of Wentworth NSW, the above issue has been, and continues to be blight on our small community. This issue is not something new and has been festering out of control for many years. The Community is sick and tired of living in fear of their houses being broken into and their valuables either stolen or their home contents trashed. Many of these people are elderly people who have worked hard all their lives and do not deserve this treatment. Many have had this happen more than once by the same repeat offenders who have been caught by the police and are put straight back on the street to re offend or return from juvenile lock up after 12 months and re offend. (usually with some tips to improve their trade from diehard criminal they have met)

Local residents know that when you see these young offenders back in our community that the break-ins will start again soon and generally they do within a fortnight of these kids returning to town.

In February 2010 my house was broken into whilst both my wife and myself were out earning a living and our kids were at school. Not only did they steal some \$5,000 from our belongings, but they also trashed our house. I now have children that are not sleeping due to the intrusion and are apprehensive when leaving the home.

My elderly parents who live in the same street were also broken into whilst they were in Mildura at a doctors appointment, they are in their 70's and should be enjoying retirement. Do you know how gut wrenching it is to visit your parent's house to see them in tears sitting amongst their belongings that have been trashed and thrown around their house? They are not the only retirees in town that this has happened to and the inaction by the law to do anything to curtail these events is appalling.

I have lived in Dareton most of my life and it is a wonderful little town with generally and amiable mix of white and indigenous residents. It is a small group of young criminals that are associated with this type of crime and needs to be stamped out.

Our town and the Shire in general have been severely affected by the downturn in the rural industry due to drought and poor commodity prices. There is already an air of despair within the Community and these types of crimes only add to our woes.

Maybe it will take a politician or a councillor to be burgled and their house and belongings trashed before it becomes an issue.

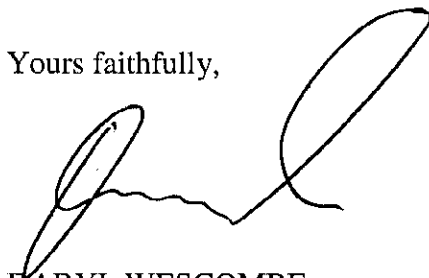
The local police are continually frustrated in bearing the flack from the local Community and having to apprehend the same offenders time after time only to see them released again and again.

I dread the day that one of these young offenders is caught in the act and harmed (or worse) by the householder or indeed a householder is harmed by the intruder. When that day comes, and it surely will, our Community will be ripped apart.

There are people in the legal fraternity better educated in Juvenile Law than I will ever be. Gaol is not the answer but allowing these kids back on the streets to re-offend is not either. How many chances to rehabilitate do these kids get? At who's expense? My grandparents? Me and my wife? My children? My friends family and grand parents? My Community?

When reconsidering these juvenile laws, please not only keep in mind the rights of the juveniles, but also what detrimental affect their re-offending has on the local community.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daryl Wescombe'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

DARYL WESCOMBE,