Political Guts

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Wednesday, 8 October 2008

Mr Robert McClelland
Attorney General
Mrs Jenny Macklin
Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
CC Prime Minister Kevin Rudd
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr McClelland and Mrs Macklin,

On an almost daily basis our media delivers appalling images and reports of crimes against people and property. As I explain on my website at http://www.politicalguts.com/id17.html there are easily explainable reasons for these behaviours. However, there are also solutions, which I have also listed here and on my website.

No, we are not going to "stop all crime"... However, there are ways and means to harness at least some of the excessive energy that causes the crime, and other, very different ways to prevent or reduce the repeat offending behaviour.

As a child, I grew up with a very close familial relationship with our local Police Citizens Youth Club, my father donated a lot of time and energy to helping the local police in our small country town build the clubhouse and organise the events. It was a turning point in the town.

Now, more than ever, those clubhouses are needed in our communities, not just for teaching boxing or judo, but to be a focal, collective point where youth can meet, to be guided on how to grow into adulthood, and where their incredible energies can be harnessed and channelled into productive pursuits, rather than letting them express those feelings of exuberance in developing bad habits unsupervised elsewhere. This is a powerful first step and the first segment in my series of solutions for turning our societal antisocial behaviour around.

For those already in the criminal cycle, we know that drugs are a huge driving force behind the vast majority of crimes of violence. I have suggested a number of solutions on my website, but prime amongst them are genuine application of appropriate sentencing penalties, enforced without parole periods, in totally sterile and drug-free jails, ensured by sniffer dogs and/or electronic odour drug detection systems, and total detoxification of inmates for the term of their sentences.

That will require resources for the police to catch the criminals, and resources for the detention system to clean up the jails and provide genuine detoxing facilities and rehabilitation. It will mean installation of new drug detection systems to keep the jails clean. This is all critical, and represents the second and third segments of my solution.

However, there are some crimes, like serial rape and paedophilia that are more of a disease than a criminal act. We know that these people reoffend, often very shortly after release from custody, and almost every time. It is a compulsion, which happens also to be a crime. Medical intervention such as I have suggested, plus a period of detention, in these cases is probably the only solution. This is **the fourth segment** of my series of solutions.

Family law presents challenges, many of which revolve around money and payment of maintenance. Adoption of my Transaction Tax strategy would simplify this issue enormously. Check that strategy at http://www.politicalguts.com/id5.html for the details. I have already sent this policy strategy to the Federal Treasurer and Prime Minister.

However, family breakups may also cause crimes of passion, where rational thinking does not apply. Local enforcement is critical, as well as fast response teams, a law court that can act immediately to protect the family members in danger, and provide shelter when necessary. This is **the fifth segment** of my series of solutions.

In all cases, following criminal detention, rehabilitation and detoxification needs to be followed up by genuine support services. A half hearted attempt at supervision and perhaps jobsearch by an overworked public servant and weekly reporting to a police station does not constitute genuine support. If we want to make this work, serious funding and resources needs to be applied, to break this vicious cycle. The funding for this will come from the transaction tax reform savings (mentioned above) initially, and be followed by the savings in the cost of crime to the community.

The cost of criminal behaviour is well documented, every state police force has the statistics, insurance companies can give you their costs, but the human cost is inestimable – that is the one we need to work towards eliminating. These five initiatives, with the details on my website, can make a genuine difference to the situation.

I urge you to not only consider these initiatives, but to act urgently to implement them.

To this end, I will support you as much as possible, by providing all the community support I can muster for your cause. I will also notify the media of these initiatives so that they can help you in whatever way they can to gain the active support of the public, and bipartisan support from the whole of government. I may also contact relevant members of the State Governments.

Sincerely

Ray Jamieson Author www.politicalguts.com