

### **Submission 34. Noel Hopley**

The transition between imprisonment and the outside world is overwhelming, I could not imagine how I would be rehabilitated without family support. Our rehabilitation system must have the means to give inmates a chance to be beneficial denizens to our community - from the first day the concentration should not be on punishment but education both in industry and spiritual; a cohort of misdirected led by business owners and elders. Our crime wave is a symptom of disenfranchised and alienated citizens who feel they have no connection with the community which in turn has no connection with them. The days of expecting people to pay taxes and behave are gone, even in developed areas where full-time work will not buy you the Australian dream - let alone a people deprived of their land and identity and cultural connection to their community. Control is not enough of an incentive to deter a rebellion and take what is deprived from you. If we are not invested in a holistic approach to rehabilitation on both sides of the literal fence, we are doomed to create cycles of criminals we will never be able to afford with a growing birth rate, including the exodus of the small-town locals. We have been saying the same thing for years, we have international examples of how to fix it, we have exhausted human resources and a 1800s methodology. If not now then when?