



**Contribution to the INCorrections
POSTCorrections Regional
Community Forum Brisbane 26 October, 2005**

Keith Hamburger AM

If it was possible to punish crime away, the United States of America would now be well on the way to a crime free society. In 94/95 America had four times the imprisonment rate of Australia.

the children who ultimately come to prison come largely from a sub-culture from within our society characterised by ineffective, neglectful and abusive parenting. In the order of 8 out of 10 of prisoners serving sentences in excess of five years in Queensland, the state's serious offenders, come from this background. The social histories on their files make horrific reading of childhood years of emotional, physical and sexual abuse, birthdays forgotten, no toys at Christmas, growing up in domestic situations where disputes are arbitrated by screaming and by violence. These are the children who from an early age learn to live on the streets to obtain the daily necessities of life and in many cases are safer there, or at least no worse off than in their own homes.

and your mother

you

"meat head"

rather than focus on punishment attention should be directed to the broader question of how do we in Queensland, in Australia, set about achieving a safer, more caring and more law-abiding community?

Equally important as community commitment to crime prevention is the need for community support for the outcomes of the criminal justice system after crime has been committed and the offender dealt with.

that in spite of the fact that more people are coming to prison and a significant proportion of these are staying for longer periods, there is undoubtedly a growing perception in the community that the criminal justice system is more concerned with the needs of offenders than with the needs of victims.

While this perception is fuelled by the adversarial political process and by the media which sensationalises the minority of questionable cases, it is fervently believed by victims because during the court process they have felt alienated and excluded.

-

-

who wrote this report,

bureaucrat

bureaucrat

a bureaucrat

the bureaucrats

response that rejects the INCORRECTIONS Report,

who wrote this

how do I stop straddling this barbed wire fence.

Point 1

community *a safer, more caring and more law abiding*
more caring and more law abiding community *a safer,*

Point 2

crime". *"bleeding heart"* *"going soft on*

community.

a safer, more caring, more law abiding

punish crime away notion

•
•
•

-
-
-

-
-

right thing has been done

-
-
-

shock jocks

Point 2,

a safer, more caring, more law abiding society

**Keith Hamburger AM
Director
Knowledge Consulting Pty Ltd
26th October 2005**

Appendix One

KEITH HAMBURGER AM