

**To:** Strategy Support (DPFEM) <[strategy.support@dpfem.tas.gov.au](mailto:strategy.support@dpfem.tas.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Proposed bike law changes

You have asked for personal opinions, and this is my 5 cents worth on the new laws around bike clubs. Do I agree with the new laws - definitely Not. Why not ? I have people I know and many I consider friends, that are members or associates of clubs. They are people i know would help me if i asked, without hesitation.

Personally, I have never been offered or seen evidence of any type of hard drug use when I've been with these friends. Unfortunately, I can't say the same about my work over the years (bar work), where I've been asked on a regular basis if I want to partake in using drugs or if I have anything I want to sell, or I "must know where to get the good stuff".

I have never been asked if I want to buy stolen goods from anyone I know related to bike clubs, but again in my general life (work life) I have, on many occasions been offered "a great deal" from others not associated with a bike club.

I have never felt intimidated by or "sleazed" onto by anyone when I've been at a club. Once again, working in bars, I've witnessed this and had it happen to me on a regular basis, by people who werent wearing bikie attire, sometimes getting very aggressive when met with rejection.

What I have seen is when a club member is sick, unwell, or out of work, having personal problems, everyone rallies around to help, to mow lawns, get wood in, make sure the family is ok. Unfortunately this is NOT something I've seen in general society. Usually it is immediate family and a couple close friends that seem to dwindle off over time. I have had my own personal experience, where my ex, (not a member or associate) had a very serious bike accident and my electrician (a member) came to the hospital, while my ex was in a coma, to make sure i was doing ok, that my kids were ok, to offer assistance either financially or to help with yard/housework or picking kids up from school (which I totally trusted him, or anyone he suggested, with). Anything i needed he would help with, all i had to do was ask. When we separated he did the same, to make sure myself and my kids were ok and never once expected anything in return.

To be honest, I am envious of club members because to have that type of loyalty, comradeship and respect is rare these days - something that is missing in our disposable society.

Can I wear a jacket that in no way covers or disguises any part of my body, in fact could help identify me if need be ??? No

Can I wear a hoody that covers my head not necessarily my face ? No (in some places)

Can I wear a burka that covers my whole body loosely enough to conceal anything I want to, covers my head and face to the extent I am not identifiable (even if I'm male or female) ? Yes because apparently it is my right to be able to dress how ever I want to, it is part of my religion.

How do you expect to be taken seriously when you are so hypocritical ?

I am told repeatedly by the media, the government, not to tar everyone with the same brush apparently not all muslims are terrorists, not all priests/teachers are pedophiles, not all law enforcement officers are corrupt but unfortunately evidence suggests that a larger than normal percentage are, so what are we doing about that ?? Why am I now being told I should believe the opposite about a group of people who are passionate about the same things - loving and riding their motorbikes and enjoying the company of good mates ?? Again, how do you

expect to be taken seriously when you are so hypocritical ?

Do we often see evidence of the good clubs or club members do ? No we don't because unlike general society (and some other groups) who need to publicise their good deeds to social or news media, clubs and their members don't do it for recognition they do it as part of a moral code. Most people wouldn't know if their tradie, butcher, cleaner, nurse was a club member but they would know that person as someone who always seems to lend a hand.

Don't forget these are Tasmanian laws they want to change so any examples of supposed "bikie turf wars" they use from other states is smoke-screening and scaremongering at its finest. Do they have any local evidence of this from Tasmania ?? I don't think so and clubs have been here for a long time.

So what will be next ?? Car clubs ?? they wear the same club patches drive around in (sometimes) loud noisy cars, do burnouts. Maybe martial arts clubs ??? they wear the same uniform and could inflict injury on most people in a heart beat.

So I guess the question I ask is, if you feel you can discriminate against one group of our society because of the clothing they wear, the friends they have, their mode of transport, where in Tasmania is your evidence to support your claims of excessive hard drug use and distribution, use of violence. Where is it ??

Are the problems they mention (violence, drugs) real ? Yes they are, but unfortunately as usual when there isnt an easy way to fix a problem that has gotten out of hand, so where do they lay the blame, as usual very misguided, judgemental and typical of blaming the easiest target.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.  
Regards  
Katrina Garwood