

To: Strategy Support (DPFEM) <strategy.support@dpfem.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Proposed legislation against wearing of Motorcycle Club Colours.

Dear sir/madam,

I am writing because I am severely dismayed to hear of the proposed legislation outlawing motorcycle club members from wearing their club "colours".

I am 56 years old, a "concerned" legal citizen of, and voter in, this great state/country we live in.

I am NOT a "bikie", affiliated to any "bikie" club, or have any family members in such scenario.

I have worked full time since my enlistment into the Australian Defence Forces at the age of 16, and apart from traffic offences and 2 minor drink driving charges, have had no run ins with the law.

I DON'T do, and NEVER HAVE done any forms of illegal drugs or substances.

I have however over the years, met several "bikies" through work and my social life.

1. An individual I met whilst sub-contracting at Wesley Vale Paper Mill and knew for approx 17 years, was a Devils Henchmen Club member, the nicest bloke, biggest softy and a total law abiding citizen.
2. Another bloke I met through my best mate (business owner) is a also a Devils Henchmen Club member and a respected business owner. I can personally vouch this bloke has NEVER been in trouble with the law for any reason, and has been involved with drugs in any way shape or form. He simply joined the club to enjoy the company and ride with his mates.
3. Years ago, one of my mates introduced me to his father and his uncle, both members of the Black Uhlans Motorcycle club. I would quite often go to their clubhouse for drinks (admittedly not licenced) and would always feel totally welcome, never uncomfortable or threatened and never offered drugs. Again, these 2 were top blokes, law abiding and nothing to do with drugs.
4. Several years back I was mixed up in a bust on the Outlaws Motorcycle Club clubrooms. I was in the club with approx 2 dozen other people ("bikies" and non "bikies") having a beer, when 2 dozen Tasmanian Police stormed the building, smashed the door down and proceeded to order us hands up, against the walls. The operation involved personal searches and interrogation, with the ONLY outcome being ONE "bikie" had a small amount (enough for himself that night) of marijuana on himself. The estimate was that the operation involving Police up from Hobart, cost the taxpayer approx \$60,000, all for a single, absolute minor offence.

This proposed legislation is COMPLETELY DISCRIMINATORY.

OK, I don't disagree that maybe "bad eggs" exist within the so-called "outlaw" motorcycle clubs. So what, drug dealers exist everywhere amongst us.

If you're up to date with Victoria, the government there actually SUPPLIES ILLEGAL DRUGS at the TAX PAYERS EXPENSE in TAX PAYER FUNDED injecting rooms. What a JOKE.

Alcohol is addictive to some, but I don't see any Tax Payer funded pubs supplying free alcohol to alcoholics, AND ALCOHOL IS LEGAL.

Meanwhile, numerous Police have been found guilty of drug dealing, but no proposed legislation to remove the Police "club" jackets, little own their firearms which they all openly carry.

I don't know if I've ever heard of a "bikie" involved in child sex offences. POLICE HAVE, and ironically, JUST TODAY a Tasmania cop has been charged with RAPE and SEXUAL ASSAULT, to add to the already extensive POLICE CRIME list.

Removing club members their right to wear club jackets, will do absolutely nothing to catch a criminal, if anything, it's going to make it harder for the Police to differentiate between "bikies" and "bikers", therefore normal non club affiliated "bikers" will be wrongly targeted by Police. And this WILL HAPPEN, as is currently the situation in NSW and QLD.

If this legislation is passed, next you will be pushing for it to be illegal to ride in groups of 3 or more. Then what, illegal for people with tattoos to congregate in groups of 3 or more. It is all part of removing our rights, and controlling us, one small step at a time, and more and more people are realising this every day.

For years I have ridden socially with 2 mates, the 3 of us on Ducatis, with leathers highly emblazoned with Ducati and Dainese logos and text. Your proposed new legislation will typically affect myself and if not, the next lot of discriminatory legislation will.

With regards to this legislation, I DO STAND with the "bikies", and all that detest its' implementation.

In finalisation, I do welcome a reply to this email, in how you may feel this is not a slight on human rights and total discrimination.

Kind regards,

Allan Winwood