

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter, as the partner and wife for 35 years, of a member of the Devils Henchmen Motorcycle Club.

In that 35 years, my husband has never engaged in the supply of drugs, participated in any acts of violence or intimidated community members and he definitely does not identify as, or wear a 1% patch.

My experience over those 35 years does not back up the statements made in the Position Paper. I believe the proposed laws are unjustified, unwarranted and infringe on the basic human freedom of people being able to join and be part of any organisation they wish.

The recent Royal Commission into the abuse of children by church and government institutions uncovered very disturbing facts including systematic abuse, which was covered up by senior members of the clergy, as well as people employed with the task of caring for the very children that they subsequently abused. Where is the Position Paper proposing laws to prohibit members of the clergy from wearing their uniforms or from consorting with the same people who aided and abetted the crimes of abuse by moving guilty members of their organisation to different areas and allowing them to continue with their crimes.

Personally, after the findings of that Royal Commission, I am more intimidated by members of the clergy and so-called child care workers than I am by motorcycle club members.

I believe the proposed laws are discriminatory and single out easily identifiable motorcycle club members as being members of organised crime gangs. Yes, there could be a small criminal element inside motorcycle clubs, but recent events in South Australia where a police detective was arrested and charged with supplying drugs, shows that no organisations is safe from being infiltrated by a criminal element, not even the organisation responsible for upholding the law.

In the 35 years that I have been with my husband, we have both worked full time, raised a family of our own, as well as taking in our niece, from a failed marriage, and treating her as one of our own children.

We have bought and sold several houses and bought a florist business, which has allowed me to provide part time employment to a number of young ladies, who have gone on to gain meaningful employment and even buy and operate their own businesses.

Every member of the Devils Henchmen that I know shares the community outrage at the scourge that "ice" is proving to be and believe that the full resources of the law be used to tackle the issue.

However, I believe that "ice" addiction is as much a health care issue as a legal issue and using limited government resources to target a small minority of the population, such as motorcycle club members, is unwarranted and a waste of resources that could be used more effectively in the area of health and also in providing the youth of Tasmania with more training and opportunities for employment.

I believe that there are already laws in place that would allow the police to stamp out the public violence, manufacture and supply of illicit drugs and all other examples of crime mentioned in the Position Paper.

In fact, I am grossly offended and strongly resent the implication that my husband is a criminal and a member of an organised crime gang, and the unsubstantiated views of the Devils Henchmen Motorcycle Club presented in the Position Paper. I will protest and fight for both his, my own and every other motorcycle club member's freedom and rights to belong to and wear the insignia of whatever organisation we choose.

Sandra Murphy

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