



God's Squad

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Christian Motorcycle Club

<http://gscmc.com>

Date: 2/05/2018
To: Legislation & Development Review Services
Attn: The Inspector
Re: Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Legislation

To whom it may concern

In response to the request for public submissions on the proposed Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Legislation in Tasmania. We, God's Squad CMC Australia, acknowledge the efforts of Tasmania Police in addressing criminal activity and working to reduce the ever present drug problems associated with this within the community, but wish to make the following statements.

1. We take issue with the usage of the word "gang" as a descriptor. This is an inflammatory word used by media and police to reinforce the assumption of fear and intimidation. We will henceforth use the correct reference "Motorcycle Clubs".
2. We bring your attention to the Rule of Law, which while non-binding, is a foundational principle at the heart of the Australian legal system. Equality before the Law, the Presumption of Innocence and the Right to Assemble are key aspects that apply in this instance.
3. We dispute that the actual level of complicity of Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs in crime as stated by Tasmanian Police in justification of this legislation is significantly or statistically higher than other groups.
4. We dispute that the wearing of club colours or paraphernalia in public is in any way intimidating or threatening to the majority of people, and that it is in any way intended to be so by the majority of clubs or club members.
5. We would like to express our deep concern at the extreme measures proposed within this legislation which targets an entire subculture based on the actions of a few.

In over 45 years of ministry and chaplaincy within the motorcycle community and associated groups we are uniquely positioned to observe and comment that the purpose of Motorcycle Clubs and the reasons people join them are complex and no simple definition suffices. The assertion by Tasmania Police that Motorcycle Clubs exist solely for the purpose of drug trafficking is patently wrong, incomplete and grossly misleading.

We urge Tasmania Police and legislators to refrain from employing a simplistic "one size fits all" approach to crime by targeting an easy scapegoat and return to a model of policing that respects the Rule of Law. Judge people by what they actually do, rather than by who they associate with, what they chose to wear on their backs or with whom they chose to create community.

Regards
Pacific Executive
God's Squad Christian Motorcycle Club - Australia

pacific@gscmc.com

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