

Dear Mr Griffith,

Thank you for allowing us to appear and present before the Standing Committee on Law and Justice on the 23rd November 2015. Below is our organisations response to the supplementary questions provided following the Legislative Council's Inquiry into the Security Classifications and Management of Lifers:

1. *Without discussing individuals, prior to the classification regression in July, were Lifers happy with the system for their classification and custodial management?*

Prior to the classification regression in July, many Lifers already felt like they were restricted in their rehabilitation and personal development progress. They felt their high profile media status and constant publicity encumbered their chances of personal growth, opportunity to learn new social skills and severely affected their ability to constructively address the underlying psychological and personality disability and personal traumas. This has had lasting negative effects on the Lifers and their hope of rehabilitation and reintegration into a normal life. This further extends into their educational restrictions, which directly affects their and their families future propriety. Furthermore, Lifers also expressed the negative effects of extended solitude on their emotional and psychological wellbeing. Many hope to be assimilated into the wider prison community to improve wellbeing, social skills and successfully continue their rehabilitation process.

2. *What improvements could be made to the system for classifying and managing Lifers?*

Lifers feel they should be granted an opportunity to grow individually, develop and maintain relationships, learn new skills, prove their capabilities and manage their underlying psychological and personality disability and personal traumas. This can be achieved by awarding Lifers the chance of declassification and a chance of assimilation. In order for this to take place, they feel that the Serious Offenders Review Council (SORC) should be the sole decider on the matter. Additionally, privacy from the media is also felt to be an essential part of this process as it allows the decision to be based on the prisoner's merits and not on the media's perception and portrayal.

The improvements hoped for are clear; Lifers just want an opportunity to grow, develop and rehabilitate through possible reintegration. So, here at Justice Action on behalf of Lifers, we sincerely hope you thoughtfully consider our suggestions and see the importance and benefits of implementing these changes.

Sincerely,

Tvisa Sood
Justice Action