

**Submission
No 15**

**INQUIRY INTO SECURITY CLASSIFICATION AND
MANAGEMENT OF INMATES SENTENCED TO LIFE
IMPRISONMENT**

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Date received: 23/10/2015

The Director
Standing Committee on Law and Justice
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Dear Director,

'Management of Lifers' Legislative Council Inquiry

A NSW Parliamentary [Inquiry](#) is about to consider a proposal for exclusion and punishment more severe than ever before. It considers reducing prisoners serving total life to "living dead". They would be not allowed to learn to improve, and held under deliberately destructive high security conditions for the rest of their lives. Such changes would effectively legitimise torture. The proposal violates fundamental moral and legal principles in a civilised society.

The NSW government's knee-jerk reaction to selective public opinion is populism of the worst kind, doing little to address the question of rehabilitation within the prison system and, much worse, failing to adhere to the principles of human rights as expressed in the international charter that Australia has signed.

I refer the Committee to the attached document prepared by Justice Action in the hope that the Committee's findings will bear the above principles, inter alia, in mind when coming to a decision regarding treatment of lifers.

Regards,

Irina Dunn

IRINA DUNN
Director, Australian Writers Network
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