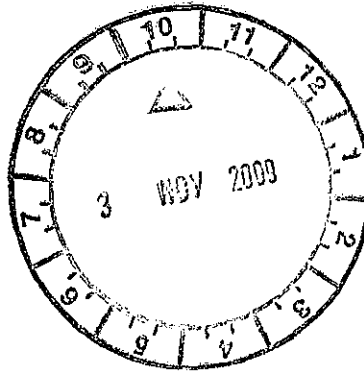


The Hon. Colin Holt M.L.C.
South West Region
3rd November 2009



FAX 9222 7805

Dear Colin,

This letter comes to you as a member of the Environment and Public Affairs Committee-Legislative Council.

The Deaths in Custody Watch Committee believe that our Petition [comprising 5,000 signatories] re the death of Mr Ward, has not been dealt with effectively, in the Attorney General's response and we ask that your Committee examine our concerns.

Apart from the first two recommendations none of the Attorney General's proposals come with final implementation dates, which seems to place them dangerously in Never-Never Land.

We are not happy that economic constraints to implementation are flagged. This is not a business issue. We are concerned with the delivery of decent human safety. That is the foremost priority and promises of future reforms are not acceptable. It is past time for delivering action.

We want the Coroner's recommendation implemented now, which says that all who have duty of care for offenders be answerable under Legislation which compels them to show cause for failure.

We want an Independent Authority given power to inspect custodial facilities and procedures and so ensure the delivery of Human Rights to offenders at all times and in all places

We ask that the contract with G4S, previously Global Solutions and before that the staff of AMES, be terminated on the grounds of gross neglect of duty, and the return of Custodial Services to the Government of W.A.

We want magistrates rather than J.Ps to be responsible for placing offenders in custody.

We believe that the Bail act must be investigated so that prisoners are not left endlessly filling our gaols without necessary rehabilitative programs, before being released as confirmed criminals into the community..

Finally, we are not happy that the police investigate themselves. We would like an Independent Body set up to oversee their powers are always used responsibly.

We ask respectfully, that your Committee consider our concerns as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Paterson

PUBLIC

