



**CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES
IN NEW SOUTH WALES
CLRI (NSW)**

ABN: 52 476 362 010
Member of Catholic Church Religious Group

The Premier
Mr Morris Iemma
Parliament House
SYDNEY

July 20 2006

Dear Mr Iemma

Enclosed is a copy of a letter sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Nicholas Cowdery. The above committee is very concerned about the remarks made by members of the Government and Opposition following Mr Cowdery's rational and informed public call for a more enlightened approach to crime and its prevention.

As a group that has had considerable involvement in dealing with offenders in prison and also with political and bureaucratic structures and policies we believe it is time for a different approach to both crime prevention and the treatment of prisoners. Much research exists to show the present methods used by NSW are not working, compared to other States in Australia as well as overseas.

We hope that rather than the dismissive comments made about Mr Cowdery's talk there will be, instead, a rational and calm consideration of his position with a view to leading the community towards a more enlightened understanding of how best to limit crime and a more humane way of treating offenders, especially the mentally ill.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Hinchey rsm

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

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