

## **Dr Vanessa Goodwin MLC**

Shadow Justice Minister

Tuesday 5 January 2010

---

### **Compulsory Sex Offender treatment essential**

Reports that a serious sex offender will be released into the community without undergoing mandatory sex offender treatment underline the State Government's total failure of policy in this area.

The Tasmanian community expects sex offenders to undergo appropriate treatment not as a matter of choice, but as a compulsory part of their rehabilitation.

The Tasmanian Liberals have a strong policy to require sex offenders to undergo mandatory treatment, according to their particular case.

In spite of several years and reviews, the State Government seems deaf to community attitudes in this area.

In the current case, it is simply appalling that the State Government's only comment is that the offender "declined to participate". It must be compulsory. That is what the community expects. It is also in the best interests of the prisoner to help them not to re-offend.

This latest case comes on top of other examples where a paroled rapist sought counselling after release in 2008 having been denied the opportunity to participate in sex offenders' treatment in prison, in spite of wanting to.

In another case, a gaoled sex offender was deemed too "low risk" to take part in treatment.

Successive Labor Justice and Corrections ministers have failed to act on this major issue.

Under a Hodgman Liberal Government, sex offenders will not be released from prison until they have completed an appropriate course of treatment.

The Tasmanian Liberals have a range of strong initiatives in the Justice area that we will implement in government.

They include putting a victims of crime representative on the Parole Board, establishing a Sentencing Advisory Council and reviewing the range of current offences for serious crimes to ensure they match community expectations.

---

For further information or comment please call Brad Stansfield – 0419 884 666

---