



"I believe in kindness. Also in mischief."
~Mary Oliver~

31st March 2023

Dear Committee,

I express gratitude for your discerning attention to the topics of this enquiry. I seek not to flatter but in every way to thank you for your sensitive perception about the importance of the matters articulated within your Terms of Reference (ToR).

I also specifically thank Meg Webb who encouraged me to write this letter to request that the committee consider meeting with me in a public hearing. A public hearing would give me opportunity to express the insights and stories I have gathered in relation to the Enquiry's ToR across 10 years of grassroots work with 'users' of the carceral 'justice' system.

As a result of Meg's encouragement, my specific request is indeed to meet with the Committee in a public hearing. My reasons for this request are:

- I am time poor.
Setting out the wealth of my experience in a document is not possible for me at the current time. I would rather talk to you. In any case, conversation more fully permits affective relaying of insights. I am a speech pathologist and criminologist and know through my professional (and synonymously, scientific) journey that the *emotion*-based component of justice work is a central pin in questions of justice and cannot be ignored. Humans are creatures of emotion. Ask any parent. And humans are both the potential and the problem for justice that is truly just. This is paradox and challenge that we must rise to with all our values intact.
- I have spent the past six weeks, which would otherwise have been perfect submission-writing time, down in the grassroots doing the work of language, literacy, and prosocial early intervention within disadvantaged school communities – Bridgewater, Queenstown, Rosebery. This has been intensive work specifically and critically timed in these six weeks (Term 1) to set up the school teams with the goals and strategies needed to carry on the work throughout the school year. My hands are simultaneously worked in the practical realities, as well as filled with the abundant treasures of what is possible. I have not had the time to write a compelling submission but if you will talk to me, I will tell you stories of the dignity of early intervention that is so thorough its recipients never knew themselves to be disadvantaged or to be being intervened upon. In this, is the power to wipe out adult incarceration and youth detention.
- I have personally brought energetic and evidence-based innovation directly to the justice system across 10 years.
I have stories to tell of hope, transformation, and lived insights in the face of so called 'justice' that is not justice at all but the continuation of punitive processes of privilege, consciously or unconsciously bent on maintaining power. When one hears these stories, justice that is open and free reveals itself. It is to this justice that we should be aiming as society.
- I am a 40 years' experienced clinician and thinker about communication.
The world's big problems, of which justice is importantly one, require above all that we humans communicate with *shared* meaning. Only communication that creates *shared* meaning within the complexity of our living, can answer our global challenges. So, I wish for the opportunity to share meaning with you, and tell you what I have learned and observed, up close and personal, within the justice system. We could be doing things so much better. We must challenge the unconscious cultural transmission of old paradigms. We need new paradigms of no nonsense kindness. Kindness is the strong and humble arm of true justice.

Your enquiry is asking these things:

To inquire into and report upon Tasmanian corrective services and justice system matters related to adult imprisonment and youth detention including:

1. Factors influencing increases in Tasmania's prisoner population and associated costs;
2. The use of evidence-based strategies to reduce contact with the justice system and recidivism;
3. The provision of, and participation in, services for people in prison and leaving prison (health housing and legal services);



"I believe in kindness. Also in mischief."
~Mary Oliver~

- 4. Training and support initiatives for corrective service staff related to increasing individual well-being, professionalism, resilience and reduced absenteeism;
- 5. Innovations and improvements to the management and delivery of corrective services that may be applied in Tasmania, including to future prison/detention centre design; and
- 6. Any other incidental matters

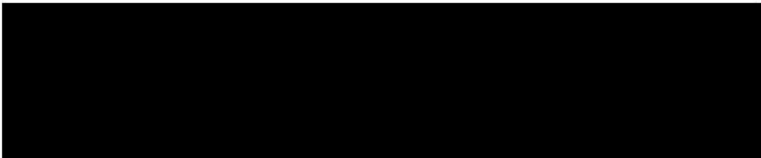
I have experience and stories to answer your points 2-6 in particular.

I have brought world-first innovations to the Tasmanian justice system. We could be expanding these innovations and modelling to the world. The most recent proof of the solidity of these innovations is the 1:3.2 social return on investment¹ demonstrated through a parent-child attachment program that I first initiated and ran at the prison in 2014 and which has been in operation since that time.

Moreover, I am currently working intensively with people who have left prison and are reintegrating in community. This work is being done through the lens of their communication skills. It is another example of a unique and world-first program that combines the insights of human communication science with social science. This work is adding clear evidence that firm, no-nonsense kindness in communication supports positive relationship – and in its turn, supports social care, community, and justice.

Do please speak to me. Do please understand that I am fully versed in the very grassroots work that you seek to understand... and that you seek to expand for the flourishing common good.

Many thanks for your time and attention.



Rosalie Martin
Certified Practising Speech Pathologist | Criminologist | Dialogue Facilitator

¹ Soon to be published Social Return on Investment analysis of a prison-based parent-child attachment program commissioned by NGO Connect42.

