

From: [david and shelley keyes](#)
To: [CSJS](#)
Subject: Re: Legislative Council Inquiry
Date: Monday, 20 February 2023 6:00:56 PM

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Mr. Simon Scott, Secretary,

Legislative Council Inquiry in to Tasmanian imprisonment and Youth detention Matters.

Submission begins-

When I was a J.P, and before my commission was withdrawn because of my advanced age, I was afforded the privilege of visiting a number of Tasmanian penal institutions, spanning the main prison at Risdon and including Ashley, and the then Hayes Gaol farm.

What I took away from those visits is pretty well summarised in the attached copy of a "Mercury" letter, which I have provided for the sake of brevity and in an effort to save the time of the Committee I was deeply impressed by the operation and outcomes of the gaol farm and whilst this was a specialised type of (forced) education, thought there was no reason why a similar but V.E.T. type of facility could not be devised ,which in addition to imparting basic trade skills and generating a useful output could perhaps provide an opportunity for the future employment of discharged participants , assuming participating employers.

David Keyes

See attachment

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ATTAC Hayes

The Editor,

"Mercury" Newspaper,

Dear Sir,

A recent edition of the "Mercury" carried a police report on crime statistics, which, while not particularly remarkable, nevertheless was a reminder that criminal activity is still an almost normal part of everyday life in Tasmanian cities.

Anyone who has been a victim of crime would certainly object strongly to such a conclusion, but the fact is that there is no serious attempt by government to deal with recidivism, or repeat offending, so criminals, on release, go on to return immediately to the only trade they know and we all suffer.

Believe me, there is nothing worse than knowing that a person who you would not knowingly invite into your home, has nonetheless been there and has left with your valued possessions, or, worse, you have suffered a physical attack or someone close to you has been assaulted.

Civilised society is not meant to be that way and while there are no foolproof options, there are still some very good ones, and they include, for example, gaol farms, which have a dual purpose, notably, that what they produce is utilised by such other public entities as hospitals, schools and gaols themselves, however the most important by product is that they offer a means of imparting future work skills to the prisoner and a glimpse of a more normal life than they have ever previously experienced, thus they are no longer obliged to survive by following a criminal lifestyle.

It sounds like a no-brainer, and it is, but a previous government closed the fully functioning Hayes Gaol farm for undisclosed reasons some years ago, and of course it has never been replaced even though a new penal institution is to be built at the rural community of Westbury, not that far from Ashley - now there's a constructive option!

As an aside, when a J.P. I had the privilege of visiting Hayes when it was fully functioning, and was impressed to discover that discipline was maintained by threatening to send inmates who misbehaved, and there were few, back to Risdon, and this was a remarkably effective sanction.

David Keyes

