

# FOREWORD



The community's ability to pursue a lawful, rewarding life is an intrinsic right which is being put under increasing pressure by the actions of criminals. Because of this it is vital that governments give every support to the various bodies involved in countering this crime threat, be it organised or individually generated. It is equally important that these agencies work together as closely as possible and make every effort to support and appreciate the aims and actions of each other.

The South Australian Government sees the Australian Crime Prevention Council as making a major contribution towards this necessary exchange of ideas.

The fight against crime at all levels is as old as man. In that time, crime prevention methods have passed through varying stages up to today's sophisticated approach epitomised by the membership and aims of the Australian Crime Prevention Council.

One of the most outstanding attributes required by governments when it comes to crime prevention, however, is flexibility. Criminal techniques, and, possibly more importantly, the community's reaction to criminals and certain crimes, are constantly changing.

And it is important that governments accordingly adopt laws and associated prevention and rehabilitation techniques to deal with the different problems and the changing attitudes of people.

A major crime contributor today is youth unemployment.

Not only are thousands out of work, but other outside influences have intensified the problem. Modern education systems are geared to encourage our youth to question. How much more difficult it is to provide adequate answers to someone whom the system rejects.

This is one area where governments need to be aware and responsive.

This should not be taken as meaning a softening . . . an abrogation of responsibility. On the contrary such an approach is a full-shouldered acceptance of responsibility. And should any criminals misinterpret sensitivity as weakness, governments must be prepared to be tough with persistent criminals, or those who engage in particularly horrifying crimes which threaten other people's safety and/or lives.

The South Australian Government is committed to that approach. The Government believes the community has the right to expect greater protection both on the streets and in the courts. Accordingly, many specific legislative, administrative and other measures are currently under review by the Government. They include extension of the Crown's rights of appeal on sentences, wider use by the Crown of the power to make submissions to courts on penalty, review of the Parole Board's guidelines, the unsworn statement and increase in support for the police.

Above all, we must do everything possible to foster the spirit of community responsibility. It will take a major and united effort to create a safe and secure society.