

Submission to the Taskforce Chairperson, Justice Alan Wilson

As a young man I served in VIETNAM [REDACTED] convinced by the government of the day into believing I was fighting to keep AUSTRALIA free and protecting the life style, our previous veterans had fought and died for.

In October twenty thirteen, when these vlad laws were introduced , I was declared a member of a criminal organization, without one shred of evidence against me. I have been unable to march on ANZAC DAY or even have a beer with mates I served with, as the police commissioner IAN STEWART said on television that the police would be filming the marches and if there were more than two veterans that were members of declared clubs at these parades, then they would be charged under these laws. As most motorcycle clubs were started by returned soldiers, the possibility of arrest is very real. So the medals I received for serving my country mean nothing. I could not even march as a proud Australian veteran on the 100th anniversary of the GALLIPOLI LANDING/ ANZAC DAY, something that should have been my right to do ,shame on these laws, Shame on the law makers. My son-in-law is also a member of this declared club, although he has no criminal record at all. This makes it very difficult to see my grandchildren as my wife could be considered an associate, and also be arrested. Under these laws I am unable to attend family gatherings such as birthdays without the risk of arrest.

I have had police come to my home on several occasions just to ask questions for so called intelligence gathering. As I am not a criminal, does this border on harassment?

I have been pulled over on the side of the highway under the pretence of a random breath test and searched, photographed and checked out for warrants, of which I have none. Are other law abiding citizen treated in this way?

I have been travelling on the highway and pulled in for fuel not knowing that there were two other so called declared members there having lunch. Now if there had been a policeman there we could have been arrested and then it would be up to me to prove I did not know they were there.

I have raced motorcycles in various forms of the sport for a large part of my life. At the age of [REDACTED] I was the [REDACTED] in my class, these activities helped to keep me reasonably fit. Since these laws came in, I am not allowed to race anymore as there would be other so called declared members racing, so I was forced to retire from the sport I love, and put my equipment up for sale at a considerable loss.

At my age I have a lot of older mates and under these laws I risk being arrested if I was to attend a funeral, if the deceased happened to be another so called declared member. The police have been seen filming people that go to funerals so the risk of arrest is there and very real.

Why such DRACONIAN LAWS for less than half of 1% of the crime in Queensland.?

The figures can be exaggerated but the statistics tell the truth. LESS THAN HALF OF 1%.

In conclusion I would like to say being a member of a motorcycle club does not make me a criminal. If the police had evidence of any criminal activity, then they should use the laws that were put in place before vlad. A person should not be guilty by association, but innocent till proven guilty. A person should have the right to face their accuser, not have so called secret information used against them, this is not evidence.

[REDACTED]