

Re the review of the Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act (VLAD) & the suite of associated legislation (VLAD+) which came into being in a period of close proximity.

For me, my morality indicates that I do not have a choice: I must make some submission as I feel the bulk of VLAD+ is grossly inappropriate, discriminatory legislation. The difficulty with making a submission whether written or otherwise relates to the overabundance of reasons why the legislation is inappropriate together with the need for brevity in light of time constraints for myself a greater likelihood that a shorter submission will be more fully read & comprehended by a greater number of readers.

For the review panel's interest I intend to share some of my personal details. I hope this assists with contextualising my perceptions.

Name: [REDACTED]

Age: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Education: [REDACTED]

Employed in [REDACTED] domains of work. I have also previously been employed within the [REDACTED] for 3 years.

[REDACTED]

First motorcycling experiences before I was 8 years of age & I remain an owner rider.

A single infamous event at the Gold Coast has been much reported as the trigger or excuse for the VLAD+ which was rushed through parliament & reasonable debate was avoided. The event could have been dealt with by the police & the judiciary by the use of existing powers & laws. From the very beginning VLAD+ has continued to create unreasonable disruption for the lives of many innocent law abiding, nil criminal record citizens.

- Social riders had concerns re VLAD+ interpretation.
- Social riders were & are unnecessarily detained & harassed by police.
- Social riders & 1% clubs stopped &/or greatly reduced charity work as well as many club rides which benefit the visited communities.
- The 1% tag does not relate to criminality, that relates to the formation of a breakaway group after some unwanted behaviour at an event in America (in 1947?).
- Some of the Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMGs) as listed by the government do not & have not had any presence in Qld or Australia. This at least suggests a poor grasp of the problems they proposed the VLAD+ was to deal with.
- Vietnam Veterans Clubs & members, not part of the government created list of Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMG) have also been raided & suffered harassment.
- 1% clubs, now OMG, previously had legal open to the public charity fundraising events, eg rides, meals & entertainment at their respective clubhouses.
- Charities have & are suffering as are those that depend on these charities.
- More than a decade ago, pre-VLAD+, I myself was the principle organiser of the Christmas Toy Runs of the Capricornia region for 4 years. These primarily support the Salvation Army, some other charities over time. Many post-VLAD+ events of this kind have been decimated &/or cancelled. They continue to be fraught with difficulties created by VLAD+.

- The use of the term, “media frenzy” can easily be justified around the attention given to VLAD+ related reporting. Some arrests present as having been orchestrated with maximum press coverage the goal.
- Govt statistics indicate that criminality within the motorcycling fraternity, many of whom also own/drive cars, is minimal & disproportionate to the discriminatory witch hunt which is continuing to occur. A level of criminality across all of the community including those people within govt & the police force is known.
- Not surprisingly, criminal organisations including any which may operate under the guise of a motorcycle club are unlikely to ever have a written constitution which itemises their criminal endeavours or a list of members. Is the Mafia on the govt outlawed organisations list? Of what benefit would that be?
- Legislation which provides the ability to incarcerate in solitary confinement due to an allegation, a person without criminal record is clearly inappropriate & not providing justice. Clearly VLAD+ allows this.
- [REDACTED] there is an expectation of providing services without fear or favour to all persons requiring such services. VLAD+ has created difficulties with relation to association & ability to provide services.
- Federal & state mental health plans/frameworks/strategies imply the significant importance of social inclusion to the treatment & recovery of the effected & their community. VLAD+ runs counter to social inclusion efforts isolating people from family, friends & community. “Hearing the govt speak of social inclusion while throwing away the keys without a conviction is the lived experience of people in Qld under VLAD+”.
- VLAD+ has decimated the livelihoods, health & wellbeing of numerous Queenslanders through loss of income & closure of businesses. Tattoo Parlour operations have been closed without there operators or Tattooists having any criminal record or some associated justification for not being allowed to renew licenses. Families have suffered due to their usual breadwinner being incarcerated due to allegations rather than convictions. Continuing Tattoo Parlours have also suffered losses due to imagined & potential charges that customers may be subject to due to combinations of who & where customers are when others ‘might arrive’, more victims of VLAD+.
- Many people have had exposed tattoos for many years. For some, these are part of their cultural heritage. Recently, thanks to VLAD+, these have become further excuse for exclusionary discriminatory practices.
- VLAD+ may be used against other organisations at a whim of the govt, for example currently legitimate trade unions.

The current VLAD+ as they stand together with the history of related arrests suggest that the potential exists for my arrest & incarceration in solitary confinement for having a drink with some 1% club members and of course they won’t be allowed in the hotel with their club colours so would I even know. They won’t be allowed in with the information tattooed on their faces. VLAD+ is an unreasonable incursion of citizen’s rights, I will associate with whoever I want.