



Hon Kerry Shine MP
Member for Toowoomba North



**Queensland
Government**

In reply please quote: 2006/06239 J/06/05981

**Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
and Minister Assisting the Premier
in Western Queensland**

13 DEC 2006

Ms Bernadette Shanahan
CEO
Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group
PO Box 292
LUTWYCHE QLD 4030

Dear Ms Shanahan

I refer to your "Petition for Truth in Sentencing" received by Queensland Legislative Assembly 7 June 2006.

I am sure you are already aware that offenders convicted of murder or manslaughter must be sentenced to life imprisonment. These offenders are eligible to apply for parole after they have served 15 years (20 years in some cases) of their sentence.

It is important to note that while the offender is eligible for parole, it does not mean that parole will be granted. Some prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment will never be released on parole. The Queensland Parole Board hearing the application for parole must decide whether to grant or refuse the application and, in doing so, must take into account a number of factors including the safety of the community. Enabling offenders to be granted parole recognises that some offenders can be rehabilitated and that their risk to the community may lessen.

If a life prisoner is granted parole, he or she remains under the supervision of Queensland Corrective Services for the rest of his or her life. Breaching the conditions of the parole order may lead to the prisoner being returned to custody to complete the sentence. The sentence is not discharged just because the prisoner is released under supervision.

Thank you for your petition. I am aware of the important work undertaken by your group and I thank you for taking the time to bring your concerns to the attention of Parliament.

Yours sincerely

Hon Kerry Shine MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
and Minister Assisting the Premier in Western Queensland

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