

# Prison Reform Group of Western Australia

## **Media Release.**

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The Prison Reform Group of WA calls upon West Australia's Attorney General to constitute without delay a Sentencing Advisory Council that would be able to provide considered authoritative advice on the utility, practicality and effect of certain changes to sentencing law and practice.

Dr Brian Steels, spokesperson for the group says that "Sentencing is a matter of deepest importance to the community at both practical and symbolic levels and rightly deserves the highest level of consideration and public consultation".

"Sentencing should not be dictated by the whims of newspaper editorials or the gut instinct of talk back show hosts" he says, "but rather it must work and be in accord with the highest national standards of probity and effectiveness".

The PRGWA firmly believes that only through the establishment of an independent and authoritative Sentencing Advisory Council can this be achieved.

PRGWA calls on the Attorney General to announce without delay the establishment of a working group to establish a Sentencing Advisory Council for Western Australia that can match in stature and functionality those established in NSW and Victoria.

***For further comment please contact Dr Brian Steels 0419907016 or [bsteels@inet.net.au](mailto:bsteels@inet.net.au)***