

A southern view from comedian James O'Loughlin

A dozen ways to get the Prime Minister and his government interested in removing mandatory sentencing

The government

1. Apply it to travel rorts.
2. Have an Aboriginal holding the balance of power in the Senate at a time when they want to sell off the rest of Telstra.
3. Tell them the legal profession, the arts community and a host of other left wing elites are in favour of mandatory sentencing.
4. Emphasise that young people in gaol can't be out doing what they ought to be doing ... working for the dole.
5. Apply it to broken election promises.
6. Have a game of Frisbee with a Liberal Minister in the territory. Deliberately toss the Frisbee over his head into someone's front garden. When he grabs it holler for the police and he should be arrested for trespass and gaoled for two weeks. This should provoke a change in attitude.

6. Tell them they are being hoodwinked, that mandatory sentencing was only introduced after the federal government had overturned the euthanasia laws to create a loophole to allow people to keep dying.

7. Explain that the only way of successfully avoiding the GST is to be in goal. Those in goal should be regarded as tax evaders and thrown out at once.

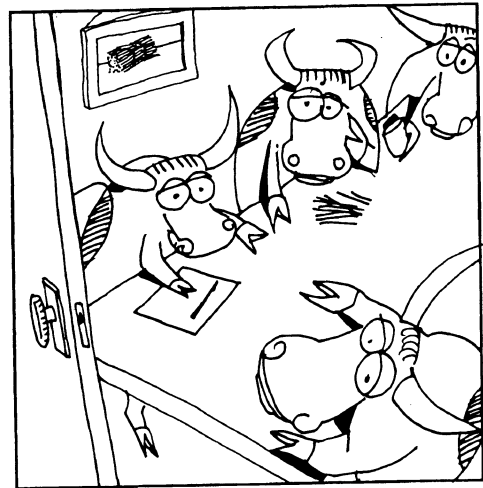
8. Get a mining company to say that Aborigines serving mandatory terms are being housed in gaols that have been built above valuable deposits of uranium. Then the indigenous people will have to move out.

Specifically for the Prime Minister

9. Emphasise that children in gaol are being deprived of the basic human right of playing cricket.

10. Remind him that he is right, that the golden age for Australia was in the 1950's and that in the 1950's, we didn't have mandatory sentencing.

The Muster Room

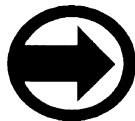


11. Conduct a seance with Johnny that contacts Bob Menzies and finds out that he is against it.

12. Finally, use reason, explain that not only is mandatory sentencing ineffective, it's unfair and immoral. Appeal to his sense of ... hang on, now I'm just being silly.

Mr James O'Loughlin writes a regular column for the NSW Law Society Journal, *Amicus Curious*. His latest contribution in the June 2000 edition is reprinted here with his permission.

ROUNDS



Mr Tom Gray QC

Has been appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of South Australia.

Mr Paul Hunt & Mrs Paulyne Williams

Have been appointed as Senior Classifiers to the Classification Board.

Mr Brian Opeskin & Mr Ian Davis

Have been appointed as full-time members of the Australian Law Reform Commission.

Mr John McGilchrist Coker

Has been appointed as the first federal magistrate for Townsville.

Mr Norah Hartnett & Mr Murray McInnis

Have been appointed as the first federal magistrates for Melbourne.

Mr Michael Brennan

Has been appointed as the first federal magistrate for Brisbane.

Mr Robbie Davies

Mr Robbie Davies left William Forster Chambers in 1997 to take up the position of Senior Crown Prosecutor with Queensland DPP. After three years in that position he left the DPP to set up his own chambers at 160 Hume St, Toowoomba.

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Mr David Loadman

Has taken up the position of Chairperson with the Lands and Mining Tribunal.

New partners for Cridlands

Cridlands are proud to announce and congratulate:

Karen Christopher

Donna Dreier

David Sweet

will become partners of Cridlands on 1 July 2000.