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Sent: Tuesday, 16 December 2014 8:02 AM
To: Porter, Mary
Cc: Matt Aust. Inst. Affective Practice Matt CASEY; Chuck Daly
Subject: Thanks

 A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE	
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Dear Mary,

It was great to catch up with you yesterday. Matt and I certainly appreciated the opportunity to talk with the Standing Committee about what restorative justice/practice really has to offer.

In a practical sense there are a number of simple suggestions that might be helpful in terms of helping the Committee make sense of where we are coming from. In my submission, I focused on two possibilities: Restorative Reporting Centres & Restorative Probation.

However let me pick up on the point that you and your female colleague raised in regard to how police interact with the community. You made particular reference to an issue raised by the Official Visitor about police interaction with Indigenous people and you gave the scenario about how these interactions can result in an escalation of the conflict and subsequently charges being preferred.

You might consider the following:

1. Tom Tyler's book Why People Obey The Law provides pretty solid evidence that how folks are treated [by police and others] has a great bearing on the offending patterns.
2. That the ACT could become the first policing jurisdiction in Australia to embrace restorative conversations as a way to engage community. This could be easily achieved by providing service wide inservice trainings on the use of the restorative questions; a little about Silvan Tomkins theory and where shame fits in this; and more.
3. That the ACT could become the first policing jurisdiction to integrate restorative principles and practices in their public complaints systems, and in their disciplinary and workplace grievance procedures. On this issue, I was instrumental in developing a pilot in Thames Valley Police that lead to the introduction of Restorative Justice principles into the UK Police Complaints System.

Note: Point 2 & 3 need to be introduced as part of the same measure. If police get to see that how they are deal with is likely to be a considered and respectful process, then they are much more likely to accept that this process is legitimate when it comes to community. I have attached a very early PCA report [Jo Dobry - good story of how I influence this lady].

Mary if you could get this happening in policing then this could make a significant difference in terms of the police and community relationships at a time when fear and enforcement has offers nothing other than bad news.

With respect to the Restorative Reporting Centres, ideally this could be developed as a stand alone project or if this isn't possible then a proposal to make the existing juvenile detention arrangement operate on restorative principles and practice is the next best step. I am absolutely confident that if we could 'get to' those key folks who oversight and manage these facilities then the rest will be history.

Similarly with Restorative probation, if we could just get to run a forum for the key folks to help them see that we a different 'head set' and a little bit of courage that community probation could begin to make such a difference.

I look forward to our continuing conversations.

warm regards

Terry

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