



Parliament sets maximum terms of imprisonment for most offences. I know of habitual criminals who have dozens of prior convictions for serious offences. Apart from murder, I have never witnessed an offender receiving the maximum term set by Parliament. Judges simply ignore Parliament and obviously have established their own standards of sentencing. When offenders repeatedly are treated leniently respect for the law is lost. Compassion for offenders cannot totally outweigh the rights of victims of crime who are entitled to seek justice from the courts...

What then is the solution?

The CAA strongly advocates that Victoria must introduce a Judicial Conduct Commission with the power to discipline judges, where warranted, and the power to set Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that all judges must meet on pain of being removed from office.

The CAA also submits that the system of appointment of judges is fatally flawed in that appointments are at the whim of the Attorney-General of the day. This too easily leads to "jobs for mates" and politicises the process. The CAA further submits that judicial appointments should be made by a Joint Parliamentary Committee and that judges should be appointed on contracts for, say, five years, renewable on the Judicial Conduct Commission being satisfied that KPIs are being met.

Only radical reform will satisfy the community that the justice system is there for their protection and that it is actually working.



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