

OFFER OF HOPE

4 July, 2003

We, men of the HRMU, “The Hole”, call upon the government to acknowledge us as fundamental stakeholders in the justice system, entitled to share the task of working for a safer community.

We agree with the belief that is expressed in the term “Corrective Services”. Instead of costing the government money, causing fear in the community, and allowing our lives to slip away in despair, we believe that with help, trust, and encouragement, we can return to our communities, families and friends, and make a positive contribution to humanity.

In this place where we are kept, there is no sunlight, no fresh air, nothing but grey concrete, self-mutilation, desperation, hunger strikes, sensory deprivation, and psychological damage.

We ask for your help:

- with education
- with medical care
- with contact with the community

We ask for your trust:

- to let us be with our friends
- to let us escape those who would do us harm

We ask for your encouragement:

- to believe that we are human
- to believe that we can change
- to believe that we are important to someone outside this place.

In exchange, we offer peace: a commitment to non-violence, which goes hand-in-hand with an end to the cycle of retribution between prisoners and officers. We offer to take up the motto from the Special Care Unit at Long Bay,

“FREEDOM WITH RESPONSIBILITY:
RESPONSIBILITY TO SELF AND COMMUNITY.”

The HRMU is the most restrictive unit in Australia, located at Goulburn Jail, NSW

Address responses to:

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