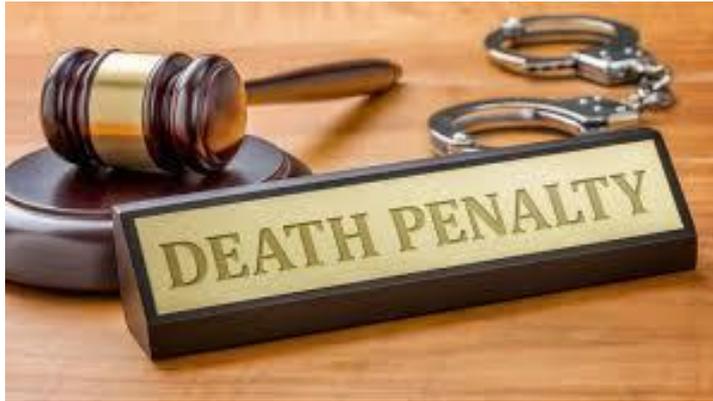


## Death penalty!!

The death penalty also known as the capital punishment; it was a form of punishment used in Australia that has been prohibited in all jurisdictions. The death penalty started in 1842 and it ended in 1922 when Queensland put an end to it, even though the last execution was in 1967.



The death penalty was placed to those who committed treason, espionage, murder, large-scale drug trafficking and attempted murder of a witness, juror or court officer and other serious crimes. So why shouldn't we bring it back?

The first execution was on 27<sup>th</sup> February 1788, when it wasn't legal. Thomas Barrett was convicted for Theft being a large crime in England, and he was given the death penalty and was hanged.

The last execution was over 50 years ago on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1967, Ronald Ryan was 'hanged by the neck until dead' at the Pentridge Gaol, Melbourne. He was given the death sentence as a punishment for murdering a prison officer, George Hodson, during an attempt of escaping, so if he wasn't given the death sentence a criminal would have been walking the streets and putting everyone at risk. In my opinion I think he deserved it because he killed someone who is keeping them locked up and his just trying to keep the community safe and keeping one less criminal away from hurting the community.

The death penalty does give closure to the families of victims who have suffered. For some families it takes years, decades and some may never recover from the shock or loss of a loved one. The death penalty can help this recovery by bringing justice and them getting closure. Even though nowadays criminals get sentenced to life for families it still isn't enough due to the criminal still being around to haunt the victim.

Nowadays the justice system shows more sympathy to the criminals than it does for the victims. This needs to stop because the criminal is in the wrong but yet they're getting shown sympathy, why? A person who is on death row has almost always committed crimes before. The past and present victims need justice for themselves.

What's to stop the people who have been given a life sentence to do something in prison? Well a death sentence can. A death sentence can stop a prisoner murdering someone in prison, and yes, they don't have to do a death penalty they could take away prison privileges but is that really enough? No, it is not, but even worse what happens if someone who is sentenced to life escapes there is nothing to stop them from killing any innocent person or committing that crime again

The prisons are facing a problem with too many prisoners but not enough space and resources. The death penalty could fix the problem with giving the people who have life sentences and giving them the death penalty instead.

If the death penalty was legal, the prosecutors could use it as another bargaining chip in the plea-bargaining process. The amount of criminal cases that are plea bargained which is the accused admits guilt in the benefit of getting a lower sentence or another concession. The numbers can be as high as 80-90% of cases. The huge majority of people that are accused of a crime are guilty. The threat of a death sentence can get the accused to give in to what they did and plead guilty and accept what they did. But if we didn't have the death penalty threat then the prosecutor could spend heaps of money on a case they could lose and then a violent criminal gets off scot free.

Even though there are some negatives about the death penalty like its cruel and it send the wrong message. Well then they should have known not to do it or have even done it in the first place, and yes some mentally ill people do commit crimes and that is where they should be put into a place where they can get help not in prison because prison does nothing for them.

Bringing back the death penalty could help the future of crime rates go down. At the moment the amount of murders there has been are too high. In the past 5 years there has been about 14,000 media stories each year concerning murder or homicide in Australia this is too high. This is too high of a number; we could have prevented this by letting people realise if they commit murder or a serious crime then they would die.

