

From:
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods
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The hardest part for me during and after New South Wales floods is probably different from most people but it's very important the town in which I live which is Coraki. It was flooded to the extent of three-quarters of the town. My house didn't flood and about 6 other streets did not flood. Our problem was the serious problem of looting including cars. People around me had their house keys and their car keys stolen and we're terrorised night after night by very young indigenous children returning to take the cars and any possessions that they could when they got the chance. They observed people in the streets leaving their houses or simply crept in while they were asleep and took money and tools and cars from the garages. Very sadly this is a permanent problem in the town and happensto an extent that you could not believe and with a frequency that you would not believe.

This is a major problem in very many towns in regional and remote Australia and is the main reason that 'The GAP' between indigenous and non-indigenous society does not close. It creates a type of psychological apartheid in rural communities where people have less opportunity to accumulate wealth. It is all very personal, because people know and have to live with the thieves.

My town needs permanent policing. It needs more policing support. I hope that other people write to you with complaints about the difficulty that this creates. The constant and persistent problem of child thieves manipulated and recruited by adult indigenous criminals widens the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous greatly. It severely holds people back financially in these communities and simply turns the children into criminals. There are almost never repercussions for the children and the children simply age to become permanent criminals. This does their indigenous community no good at all, as few indigenous develop a work ethic. The boys to men in particular, develop welfare dependence and criminal life habits. There needs to be serious intervention. It also requires a greater workforce. It should be a prerequisite that indigenous children who are thieves MUST remain in high school with a serious component of attitudinal education and support. Most indigenous children are very racist against non indigenous people and believe that they are being 'heros' for their people. Sadly, they are setting themselves on a path of angry adult failure, given the size and ethics of nonindigenous society. High school which is inclusive of past and present indigenous culture and sensitive to this world viewpoint needs to support them and help develop a different viewpoint and work ethPerhaps some will have to leave and go to boarding school. The parents should especially be required to have any welfare or other income reduced and used to repay the poor people around them that keep losing possessions and cars. No one can afford this nor do they enjoy the anxiety, mistrust and social alienation it causes. There should be negative consequences for the parents who allow their children to steal. No non-indigenous person alive today has ever stolen indigenous land, but they are victims of indigenous 'payback' thought.

Only in this manner when there are some parental repercussions will this major source of racism be overcome in Australia. There should be these consequences for indigenous child crime. They are recruited when still in early primary school. I wish governments would refine population statistics to regional towns and districts so that there is an understanding of the dynamics of indigenous/non-indigenous districts where there is a greater indigenous presence because population numbers of each group makes for a seriously different dynamic compared to the overall continental or state or major city profile. Please feel free to send this statement to the relevant government agencies. The extra Sydney police who have visited myself and my suffering neighbours are absolutely gobsmacked by the level of indigenous child crime in our town, post flood, though it was just as serious

beforehand. Their tactics to do anything were far too slow and too sparse to make any difference. Continual and unobtrusive night patrol using night vision goggles and on foot would be my policing recommendation. The children also always carry knives in case they are threatened or someone tries to catch them. If they see police coming in lit up patrol cars, they simply toss the knife unobtrusively in the street on approach of the car, so that they are innocently unarmed and they wear plastic food gloves to avoid fingerprints. The goods are fenced to Brisbane or other major cities and the kids are given money and hooked on drugs and praised as indigenous heros to keep them in the loop.

Yours truly