

# ***Search for Your Rights***

## ***Media Statement from Director Alex Cassie***

Friday 10 September 2010

### **Search for Your Rights opposes Prohibitive Behaviour Orders**

Search for your Rights today joined a host of other community voices in condemning the Barnett Government's Prohibitive Behaviour Order legislation as a failed gimmick that has been abandoned in the only other jurisdiction it has been tried, Director Alex Cassie said today.

"We know from the United Kingdom's experience where 61% per cent of ASBOs were ignored that these laws just do not work and will do more harm than good," Ms Cassie said.

"The incoming Conservative Home Secretary Theresa May has criticised the "top-down, bureaucratic, gimmick-laden approach" to law and order of which the ASBO was a central part.

"The developments in the United Kingdom mean that upon passage through the Legislative Assembly the only responsible course of action available to the Attorney General is to refer the laws to a Legislative Council committee to properly consider the impact of these extreme laws."

Ms Cassie said Search for Your Rights was particularly concerned about the "name and shame" provisions of the legislation and the fact that the legislation encouraged on-publishing of the details of teenagers.

"Children as young as 16 will have their details published online and the Department of the Attorney General has already admitted it will have no control over this information if third parties on-publish names and photos.

"This means teenagers could effectively receive a life sentence for as few as two minor antisocial offences, which could seriously affect their chances of getting a job or training position.

"Encouragement of this kind of vigilantism has no place in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

Ms Cassie said the scope of the legislation is also unclear.

"The Attorney General Christian Porter says this legislation will target around 80 hard core offenders, but as it stands this legislation will apply to anyone who commits two anti social offences in a three year period."

Ms Cassie said that although the Government would use its numbers to push the Bill through the lower house, the number of unresolved questions over the legislation meant that the only responsible course of action was for the legislation to be referred to a Legislative Council Committee for a comprehensive evaluation.

*Search for Your Rights is a non-partisan community group of over 2,400 members, initially formed to oppose the Barnett government's stop and search laws. The group recently resolved to expand its platform to oppose further aspects of the Barnett government's extreme law and order agenda.*

**Media contact: Alex Cassie 0421 201 368**