

# Crime & Punishment

*Moving from retributive to restorative justice*

## Preface

In this paper, Father Peter Norden, S.J., the Policy Director of Jesuit Social Services, analyses recent developments in social policy and the public sentiment about the operation of the criminal justice system in Australia.

These reflections are based on the accumulated experience and involvement of the staff of Jesuit Social Services, and in particular, its program, **The Brosnan Centre**, in the criminal justice field.

As a Position Paper of our policy and research arm, **The Ignatius Centre**, “Crime and Punishment” challenges the Australian community, and its political leaders especially, to move from a view of crime and punishment which is purely retributive, based on incarceration and punishment, to an approach which seeks to meet the needs of all parties involved, a restorative justice approach.

Peter Norden is a Jesuit priest with many years’ experience of working with disadvantaged families and young people. As chaplain to Pentridge Prison and as social policy director for the Melbourne Catholic Church in earlier years, he has combined direct experience with reflection and analysis of complex public policy issues.

He concludes this paper by saying: “How refreshing it would be to discover an Australian politician with responsibility for shaping criminal justice policy in this country committed to implementing reform which incorporates restorative justice principles, developing an approach to the complex issue of crime and punishment which could enhance the quality of life of all Australian citizens”.