



Christine Fyffe M.P. Member for Evelyn



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7 September 2009

Graffiti – Facing up to the consequences

Graffiti artists watch out! Community standards are shifting towards a less tolerant stance on the visually offensive practice Liberal Member for Evelyn Christine Fyffe said today while launching a campaign to promote the penalties for graffiti offences.

“Traders and residents are starting to lose their patience with graffiti offenders,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“Although the State Government’s Community Correctional Services Graffiti Removal Program puts offenders to work to clean up graffiti in some areas like Mount Evelyn, this measure is only effective if offenders have been apprehended,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“If the offender is not caught, the onus is back on the resident or business owner to clean off the graffiti immediately to prevent further attacks. This leaves victims feeling disempowered,” Mrs Fyffe said.

Mrs Fyffe says that one of the biggest hurdles to overcome is the lack of knowledge offenders have about the consequences of their criminal behaviour.

“I don’t think there is a great deal of awareness, particularly among our young people, of just how severe the punishments can be for graffiti. It probably wouldn’t occur to many of them that they could face jail time for something they probably regard as a minor offence,” Mrs Fyffe said.

The following are the current penalties for graffiti related crimes:

- It is an offence for a person to mark graffiti that is visible from a public place without the owners consent – Up to 2 years imprisonment
 - Possessing a graffiti implement – Fine \$2920.50
 - Possessing a graffiti implement without a lawful excuse while on the property of a transport company – Fine \$2920.50
 - Selling a can of spray paint to a person under the age of 18 unless the person demonstrates it is needed for employment – Fine \$2336.40
 - Advertising or promoting a prescribed graffiti implement such as a spray can of paint – Fine \$5841
- (Source: Lilydale Police Station)

“Shop owners who sell spray paint or other graffiti implements also need to familiarise themselves with the laws and penalties if they haven’t already. Forgetting to check a person’s identification and selling a can of spray paint to someone under 18 years could be a very expensive lesson,” Mrs Fyffe said.

“A police record can translate into difficulties finding employment and travelling overseas. For a minute of stupidity you can end up with a record that will follow you around for life,” Mrs Fyffe warned.

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