

Hoddle St killer Julian Knight to be relocated to medium-security prison under shake-up of corrections system

April 3, 2025

By [Shannon Deery](#) and [Ryan Bourke](#)

<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/truecrimeaustralia/police-courts-victoria/hoddle-st-killer-julian-knight-to-be-relocated-to-mediumsecurity-prison-under-shakeup-of-corrections-system/news-story/4cde88db1cd83e94d22332d4399fdb97#comments>

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Mass murderer Julian Knight is set to be moved to a medium-security prison for the first time in almost 40 years as authorities scramble to accommodate a surge in remand prisoners after the Allan government's bail crackdown.

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Julian Knight tells police how he callously gunned down innocent motorists

[Police & Courts](#)

Hoddle St killer [Julian Knight](#) is set to be moved to a medium-security prison for the first time in almost 40 years in a major shake-up of the corrections system.

The Herald Sun can reveal the mass murderer – who killed seven people and injured 19 in Melbourne in one of the [country's worst massacres](#) in 1987 – is among a raft of Victoria's most notorious criminals who are facing classification downgrades as authorities work to free up space in high security prisons to accommodate a surge in remand prisoners as a result of the Allan government's [recent bail changes](#).

The notorious rapist known as '[Mr Stinky](#)' – who is serving two life sentences without parole for the 1966 murders of two teenagers in Shepparton – is also understood to have been reclassified as a medium security prisoner.

It means both men will be subjected to reduced supervision, increased freedoms within prison and less onerous conditions when being escorted outside jail compounds.

Other high profile violent prisoners including gang members and inmates charged with terrorism related offences are also understood to be under consideration for radical security downgrades.



Corrections Enver Erdogan says he was kept in the dark about the move but still backs it. Picture: Alison Wynd

On Thursday, Corrections minister Enver Erdogan says he was kept in the dark about a radical security downgrade for Hoddle St killer Julian Knight, but says he backs the move.

Mr Erdogan said he was not consulted ahead of the major changes.

“I don’t get briefed on individual cases,” he said.

“I get briefed on the fact that people can move between classifications based on their security.”

But the minister said he had confidence authorities had made the right call.

“I understand the concern of the community, but I think the experts in this field understand those concerns, and we have a panel in place, a robust process, and I back those processes,” he said.

“I think the people on the panel, members of the Judiciary, Victoria Police, and ultimately, the Commissioner for corrections, will make a decision that’s in the interests of all Victorians.”

Premier Jacinta Allan refused to weigh in on the issue saying: “this individual (Knight) will die in prison,” she repeated.



Knight is set to be moved to a medium-security prison for the first time in almost 40 years.

Opposition leader Brad Battin slammed the decision to downgrade Knights' classification to medium security.

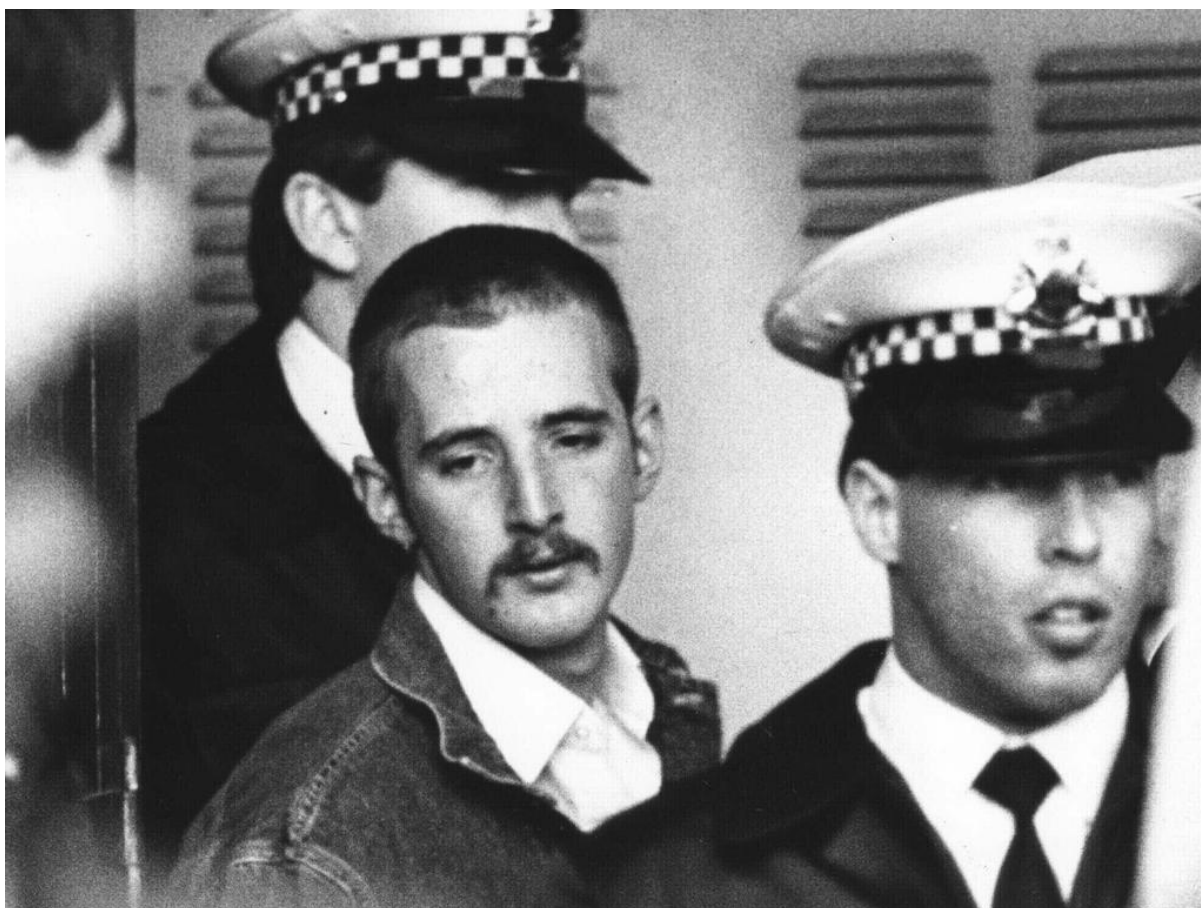
"And to not know where he's going, whether it's into regional Victorian prisons or other metropolitan prisons, is a disgrace," he said.

Mr Battin said it was the government's closure of Port Phillip prison and the beds it took out of the system that was to blame.

"Now we are going to see dangerous prisoners downgraded and moved into prisons where it is simply not suitable," he said.

"This is putting staff at risk, the community at risk, and it needs to be changed as urgently as possible."

In response to the Allan government's insistence that bed capacity was unrelated to Knights' classification, Mr Battin said Ms Allan "can come out and say whatever she likes, but there are 40 beds here in Victoria that have mould in them and can't be used, and there's a prison that she's made the decision to close."



Knight shot dead seven people and wounded 19 in Hoddle St, Clifton Hill in 1987. Picture: Michael Potter

In 2014, then premier Denis Napthine legislated that Knight would be detained until he was either on his deathbed or too frail to harm others.

Under Victorian sentence management guidelines medium security ratings apply to prisoners who do not represent a serious escape risk, but who continue to pose a risk to the community.

The same guidelines stipulate high security ratings should be applied to prisoners who “have a level of notoriety which would cause the community to expect the highest levels of supervision to be applied.”

Senior Corrections sources said the major shake-up of the system was prompted by a need to make more beds available in the state’s four remand facilities including Port Phillip Prison, where Knight is currently held.

Since [new laws](#) came into effect last week making it harder for courts to bail accused criminals, struggling remand facilities have seen a significant surge in demand.

Senior Corrections sources say there are fears the system would run out of beds for male prisoners without the major reclassification of prisoners.

“In order to maximise occupancy, what you need to do is effectively have the right number of prisoners at the different classification levels so that you can fill all the beds,” one senior source said.



An undated photo of Knight in his prison cell. Picture: Supplied

“What we’re seeing for Port Phillip is major offenders being reclassified as medium security so they can be moved out into regional prisons to free up space in the city for the remand prisoners that are coming on the back of these new bail laws,” they said.

Sources warned the process was undermining the usual reclassification process which carefully considered the risk profile of prisoners.

“That obviously comes with lots of risks, to staff working in those facilities, and broader risks to the community, because they’re not secured like they would be in a maximum-security prison. So you get risk of escape, you get risk of assault to staff, because you have less staff at those lower security facilities, if they ever have to leave the facility for some reason, like to go to hospital or to go to court, because they’ve got a lower security they’re not restrained in the same way, so specifically, no shackles and handcuffs, because they’re only a medium security prisoner.”

“Our concern is that these prisoners should be in maximum security.”



Knight is currently held at Port Phillip Prison.

Knight has for years fought to have his rating downgraded, but has faced major push from both the state government and judiciary.

Shadow Minister for Corrections, David Southwick, said any attempt to lower Knight's security classification was an insult to victims and a threat to the community.

"He remains a perpetual risk, and his security rating must reflect that," he said.

"The Liberals and Nationals will never compromise on community safety. We will always back a justice system that keeps violent offenders behind bars and puts the rights of victims first."

The state government refused to comment on the concerns.

But a Department of Justice and Community Safety spokesperson explicitly denied classification changes were being impacted by capacity concerns.

"We do not comment on individual prisoners or their placements," she said.

"Corrections Victoria regularly and systematically reviews the security classification of prisoners."

Security classifications considered a range of factors including the risk posed to the prison system and the community as well as behaviour in custody and engagement in programs, the spokesperson said.

COMMENTS:

JoeS

3 weeks ago

Who voted for this government should allow for a prisoner to sleep at their home for free!
How can anyone allow this this happen is beyond belief, think of the people that still suffer from what he did! Holiday resort!

Ollie

3 weeks ago

Not really sure what all the fuss is about in here, every single week prisoners are fronting sentence management / classification boards and having their sentence and security rating reviewed. All long term prisoners are considered for movement /placement to other prisons and regimes at various stages throughout their terms. Our prisons worst inmates are under the strict monitoring of the Major offenders Unit and their security ratings and placements are considered by that unit and that unit only. MOU accounts for a few hundred prisoners in Victoria's entire system and Knight and Stinky are 2 of those particular high security prisoners. Considering Knight has done nearly 40 years now and was initially sentenced to a minimum of 27 years I believe, it's not really anything out of the ordinary that he be considered for medium security . Knight is never going to be released from prison and his threat level has lowered and lowered year by year throughout his sentence. Overall his conduct in prison has been good and he has made some genuine efforts to better himself and his behaviour has not been an issue for many many years . He has served his entire sentence in maximum security and like every long term prisoner he should be considered for such. And for the record all new intake prisoners remanded are all held in maximum security prisons such as the metropolitan remand centre and MAP, and this is nothing new it's been happening since the old Pentridge era so it certainly has nothing at all to do with Knight and Stinky needing to be moved to make room , just media hype and a cool story !!!

AUAussie flag flyer

3 weeks ago

(Edited)

Corrections minister Enver Erdogan says he was kept in the dark about the move of Julian Knight but backs the move, 2 points, 1, why isn't the minister for corrections briefed on the move of one of Victoria's most notorious prisoner and 2 why is he needed if he is not making these decisions, Knight should spend the rest of his days in a 2x3m cell with half an hour out every 2nd day. IN MAXIMUM SECURITY

Jake

3 weeks ago

There's not going to be any need for more cells because the Labor appointed judiciary still will have the final decision on who gets bail or jail. And we know what that decision will almost always be. Just as it has been for years. Like the legislated mandatory 6 months jail for anyone who assaults an emergency worker which has resulted in none of the countless instances since having resulted in jail time. As the government themselves said just last week. It will still require the judiciary to come to the party. But recent history tells us they won't.

JEFFREY

3 weeks ago

OMG - the people of Shepparton will be chuffed with this news. Just waiting for the libs to say it will be reversed!!!

Michelle

3 weeks ago

Be creative. Why not repurpose the SRL to prison accommodation.

John

2 weeks ago

@Michelle , brilliant!

Louise

3 weeks ago

You know, we shouldn't just blame Labour, we also need to blame the GREENS, TEALS, INDEPENDENTS and all those who vote for these parties/people.

Stephen

3 weeks ago

Free up space in high security prisons to accommodate a surge in remand prisoners, so you put remand prisoners who haven't been convicted yet into high security prisons, and prisoners who have been convicted of hideous crimes into medium security prisons. You also forgot to mention that they are moving all prisoners from Port Phillip as they are closing it down and paying out the contract that it has left on it?

Karen

3 weeks ago

As usual with this weak, useless, inept, incompetent bunch of clowns another dumb decision! Keep losers like Knight in high security & put the new lot into medium security

Mark

3 weeks ago

His security rating was lowered because the state government and corrections Victoria made a stupid decision to close Port Phillip Prison so as to make it look like money was being saved when in actual fact the private sector runs cheaper

Duro

3 weeks ago

(Edited)

I wonder why decision makers were thinking about the victims and their families when they decided to make life for Julian Knight more comfortable? Not much I suspect if anything! Another day in Victoria victory for undesirables.

Kate

3 weeks ago

This Government is crushing the life out of us all.

flag

Louise

3 weeks ago

Now I have heard it all. The most heinous crimes committed by the most evil of people are going to be given a new home, which will be so nice and cosy with less security. Why, because the state is bankrupt for an underground train line that nobody wants, except some fat cats. Build more jails and make this state safe, that's what the people of this state want and need.

thumb_up22

Replyreply

flag

Michael

3 weeks ago

Well said Louise. Totally agree. I can't believe people still vote this rabble of a gavourment in.

thumb_up9

Replyreply

flag

Barry

3 weeks ago

Labor Government what else would You Expect....

thumb_up10

Replyreply

flag

Glenn

3 weeks ago

@Barry as my mum used to say, There's none so blind as those who don't want to see.

thumb_up3

Replyreply

flag

Hagar

3 weeks ago

The Hoddle street killer should never , ever be released

thumb_up12

Replyreply

flag

Just A Thought

3 weeks ago

@Hagar and should not have his classification downgraded

thumb_up2

Replyreply

flag

Graham

3 weeks ago

yes and that's what the liberals legislated. But this is Labor....

thumb_up1

Replyreply

flag

JOHN.C

3 weeks ago

Stop the SRL and build a few more prisons. The way Australia is heading we're going to need them.

thumb_up18

Replyreply

flag

Oscar18

3 weeks ago

We can use the SRL as a underground prison. Just make sure they don't get a MYKI card!

thumb_up1

Replyreply

flag

Czar

3 weeks ago

Going soft on Julian Knight and Mr. Stinky is the weakest act by any government in my lifetime.

thumb_up19

Replyreply

flag

billb

3 weeks ago

40 years how much does it cost per year, per prisoner, gotta be lots of.

thumb_up2

Replyreply

flag

Czar

3 weeks ago

Maybe we can use the SRL East tunnels for new supermax prisons?

thumb_up3

Replyreply

flag

Glenn

3 weeks ago

@Czar with no lights

thumb_up2

Replyreply

flag

Tony

3 weeks ago

Once again, the Andrews/Allan government has failed to have the foresight to ensure our prisons are maintained to cope with an ever growing capacity to incarcerate offenders. The over cooked focus on building road & rail infrastructure continues to k in impact on much needed resources to maintain our existing roads, maintain our forests, emergency services & the many government agencies.

Instead, they are cutting funds to vital government agencies & retrenching their staff, our roads are continuing to deteriorate to unsafe conditions & they're increasing taxes on already financially stressed citizens & businesses in a desperate move to rake in additional revenue. This government has got to go!

thumb_up12

Replyreply

flag

Val

3 weeks ago

I dont see anything wrong with this actually, he is still locked up as an old man.

thumb_up1

Replyreply

flag

Just A Thought

3 weeks ago

@Val if his classification is downgraded and he goes to medium security they will have more "freedom" inside the jail. These 2 should always be classified high risk and stay in maximum security

thumb_up3

Replyreply

flag

Adrian

3 weeks ago

Build prisons, not trains to nowhere. Imagine the savings. Police arresting the same person 26 times for serious crime, the time and money in court, the victims of crime support. Versus arresting and jailing someone for serious crime the first time they do it. Or at worst the second.

thumb_up18

Replyreply

flag

k

3 weeks ago

The Victims of crime financial support are very slow at paying the victims costs, I know a victim who has been waiting twelve weeks and they wonder if the government has the money too pay.

thumb_up5

Replyreply

flag

Just A Thought

3 weeks ago

@k I have been waiting 8 months after my son was murdered

thumb_up2

Replyreply

flag

k

3 weeks ago

Omg, that is absolutely disgusting, I really feel for you, I hope the media sees this and my deepest sympathy to you and your family, a tragedy and the victims are the ones being punished.

thumb_up5

Replyreply

flag

Hagar

3 weeks ago

Another failure by the Allan government to help Victorians to feel safe in their own beds

thumb_up16

Replyreply

flag

John.....

3 weeks ago

Jacinta Allan and her government are so incompetent and toxic that even Anthony Albanese the worst Australian Prime Minister does not want to be seen with her.

thumb_up7

Replyreply

flag

CMOT Dibbler

3 weeks ago

This has nothing to do with harder bail laws.

The laws were previously there before being removed by the Andres/Allan Government.

This has EVERYTHING to do with the Andrews/Allan Government doing NOTHING to raise prison bed numbers in over a decade, whilst exploding the population with immigration for the same time period.

Planning ahead is something that has never occurred to othis government.

thumb_up6

Replyreply

flag

michael

3 weeks ago

Why do you need to down grade security of these serious offenders to make room for bail breakers, wouldn't that make the low security prisons even fuller 😞

thumb_up13

Replyreply

flag

Angry of Mayfair

3 weeks ago

Between them the Allan and Albonocchio governments behave as though stupidity is a virtue.

thumb_up2

Replyreply

flag

Noel

3 weeks ago

I can only hope all you readers are thinking about this when the Federal and State Elections are called. Please remember what Labour has done to our country both State and federally. They have bought us to its knees. Labour has never gone hard on crime. I've been a Prison Officer and I can see the complete difference in how prisoners are managed between Labour and Liberal. Please people....if you want to stop the rise in crime and prisoners being let out of jail early....don't vote Labour or the Greens.

thumb_up3

Replyreply

flag

Abbotsford John

3 weeks ago

Is there anything that Arts Degree Allan cannot stuff up this is disgusting . Everything in the state being compromised to build her train set. Liebor a shambles.

thumb_up29

Replyreply

flag

Just A Thought

3 weeks ago

@Abbotsford John I would think to be a major politician that a degree in Political Science AND Economics should be the minimum requirements.

thumb_up2

Replyreply

flag

Abbotsford John

3 weeks ago

@Just A Thought Maybe 10 years experience in the private sector would help.

thumb_up3

Replyreply

flag

Lynne

3 weeks ago

Surely there is 2 others in the system that could be considered. They are certainly 2 that do not deserve to ever have any freedom, even in the prison system.

thumb_up16

Replyreply

flag

Mea Sententia

3 weeks ago

The old saying: "a camel is a thoroughbred racehorse designed by a committee". Sort of describes how the Labor Party works in Victoria.

thumb_up20

Replyreply

flag

Mea Sententia

3 weeks ago

Once again the State Government caught out and scrambling to make incompetence look intelligent.

thumb_up21

Replyreply

flag

Mea Sententia

3 weeks ago

Once again the State Government caught out and scrambling to make incompetence look intelligent.

thumb_up9

Replyreply

flag

Dennis

3 weeks ago

All prisoners have their security classification reviewed and lowered over time. Nothing new.

thumb_up3

Replyreply

flag

Gary R

3 weeks ago

Hasn't this government heard of bunk beds. Problem solved.

thumb_up19

Replyreply

flag

John W1&Wife1

3 weeks ago

@Gary R or sleeping bags?

thumb_up1

Replyreply

flag

User1

3 weeks ago

this government would put all criminals back on the street

thumb_up7

Replyreply

flag

P

3 weeks ago

...or never take them off the streets. Eg bail laws.

thumb_up4

Replyreply

flag

Graeme

3 weeks ago

Every single day in Victoria, and yet another 'Government Disaster Story' emerges. A bankrupt state in total disarray !!!

thumb_up18

Replyreply

flag

Barry

3 weeks ago

If Jacinta could let go of her multibillion dollar train set project there would be plenty of loose change to build an adequate number of jails. Perhaps some facilities to assist and support the homeless and those with chronic mental health issues who are drawn to the CBD in frightful numbers. The Melbourne CBD has strong elements of a 3rd world city. It's both shameful and sad.

thumb_up10

Replyreply

flag

k

3 weeks ago

Maybe Jacinta find two billion dollars in cuts in our prison systems, these prisoners have a better quality of life than some of our community who can't afford heating and food.

thumb_up20

Replyreply

flag

That 70's Gal

3 weeks ago

Good point

thumb_up8

Replyreply

flag

Spike

3 weeks ago

Thank you, Herald Sun, you have finally convinced Victorians that there is no justice in this State unless you are the criminal!

And with Albo not wanting to stand next to Allan during the election campaign, it tells you how toxic Victorian Labor really are to the Labor brand!

The final piece of the puzzle on who to vote for in this Federal Election has finally been placed and the answer is "Anyone but Labor, Greens and Teals"!

thumb_up15

Replyreply

flag

The Recalcitrant

3 weeks ago

Ahhh Jacinta, you've done it again!

thumb_up17

Replyreply

flag

David

3 weeks ago

Labor keeping us safe 🤔🤔🤔🤔

thumb_up9

Replyreply

flag

Len

3 weeks ago

If there was a shortage of prison cells, then probably the Big Billed should have built more prisons instead of toxic train tunnels to places people don't want to go.

thumb_up24

Replyreply

flag

JoeS

3 weeks ago

Just a Joke, think of the people that are still suffering on what he did, they got nothing but a life of pain. He should suffer not rewarded!
Pathetic Labor government.

thumb_up19

Replyreply

flag

graham

3 weeks ago

What would you expect from this govt? Plenty of cash for stop-go workers on the CFMEU, no cash for prison guards.

thumb_up23

Replyreply

flag

Vicki

3 weeks ago

I'm surprised that Labor and Greens don't rush a new law through stating that any prisoners who've been locked up for more than 10 years can be set free as it will also free up more space for Crime Capital Victoria, plus it's not fair on them. They will also add a new Tax to us to cover the costs of another stuff up they create. Vote Labor/Greens out!!

thumb_up13

Replyreply

flag

D 48

3 weeks ago

Just another example of Labor's failure to invest in the right places as we build the world's most expensive and pointless hole in the ground. Maybe some of these crooks could repay their debt to the community by filling in the potholes that the government can't afford to fix?

thumb_up36

Replyreply

flag

GM

3 weeks ago

Mr rope would ensure enough beds were available.

thumb_up32

Replyreply

flag

Shane

3 weeks ago

Indeed he would and recidivism would drop.

thumb_up11

Replyreply

flag

Chris

3 weeks ago

What happened to the newly built Western Plains Correctional facility - who's being held there? And why would remand prisoners need maximum security cells. What's the Quarantine buildings at Mickleham being used for now? The government is asleep at the wheel 🤔

thumb_up41

Replyreply

flag

Linda

3 weeks ago

@Chris Asleep at the wheel? The government has actually crashed into a brick wall!

thumb_up23

Replyreply

flag

Chilli

3 weeks ago

Add another Labor failure in management, planning and fiscal responsibility in every department.

thumb_up44

Replyreply

flag

Margaret

3 weeks ago

It seems whatever the government does to combat the crime wave there is going to be repercussions. The situation cannot be remedied overnight. Some of the comments point out past mistakes but we have to accept the situation as it is now whatever the cause. Prisons cannot be built overnight so adjustments to the present situation need to be made. Perhaps those convicted of non-violent offences could be treated in a non-custodial manner. In any case the government is in a damned if they do and damned if they don't situation where they will be criticised for any approach they take to solving this dilemma.

thumb_up3

Replyreply

flag

Spike

3 weeks ago

So closing down Jails, not refurbishing jails, not having the laws to ensure the safety of Victorians and we have to accept the situation as it is now?

When your Government is elected, they take on the responsibility of protecting their citizens, this Government hasn't done that and in reverse, they have protected the criminal more often!

thumb_up10

Replyreply

flag

AUAussie flag flyer

3 weeks ago

This is what happens when an inept government makes up rules on the run. You are way out of your depth Jacinta.

thumb_up71

Replyreply

flag

Wiz AUAU

3 weeks ago

Another day Another JA and woke disaster.

thumb_up65

Replyreply

flag

Allan

3 weeks ago

Labor have created a generation of thousands of hardened, violent, unremorseful, lifelong criminals. Only matched in atrociousness by their destruction of our police department. Slow hand clap to Dan, Jacinta and crew.

thumb_up51

Replyreply

flag

Blue Leader

3 weeks ago

@Allan Completely politicised policing! Impossible to now have confidence in the even hand of the law. Far too many senior staff and senior station managers who ask questions first about one's political affinities! As if that guided their job in a direct way!

thumb_up

Replyreply

flag

Mark

3 weeks ago

(Edited)

What this space Labor will be letting them next.

thumb_up1

Replyreply

flag

John

3 weeks ago

The innocent victims need to be remembered

thumb_up51

Replyreply

flag

gary

3 weeks ago

@John this Allan Labor government has clearly forgotten about them.

thumb_up1

Replyreply

flag

Mark

3 weeks ago

Why isn't the government building more prisons. Oh.....that's right, Victoria is bankrupt thanks to this pathetic Labor government.

thumb_up80

Replyreply

flag

Robert

3 weeks ago

If the build them, who is going to staff them? It's not a pleasant job and the pay is poor.

thumb_up7

Replyreply

flag

Benjamin

3 weeks ago

I've known employees say the money is excellent. Other conditions not so good, but the money es.

thumb_up24

Replyreply

flag

Justin

3 weeks ago

@Benjamin the pay is rubbish

thumb_up

Replyreply

flag

Ian

3 weeks ago

How about the 3000 public servants that JA is meant to be cutting. Win for everyone

thumb_up19

Replyreply

flag

Jenny

3 weeks ago

@Robert neither is cleaning public toilets but people do it

thumb_up15

Replyreply

flag

User1

3 weeks ago

@Mark no we've got transport infrastructure that 5% of the population will use

thumb_up10

Replyreply

flag

philip

3 weeks ago

Well that's been planned out well bt the government again

*