

Law Council calls for Executive clemency for Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran

The following statement can be attributed to Mr Duncan McConnel, President, Law Council of Australia:

- The Law Council of Australia has again voiced its opposition to the death penalty and the death sentences imposed on Australian citizens, Mr Andrew Chan and Mr Myuran Sukumaran in Indonesia.
- While the Law Council of Australia respects the Indonesian laws and its sovereignty, the Law Council has a long-standing policy opposing the imposition or execution of the death penalty.
- As set out in its Death Penalty Policy Statement, the Law Council considers that no person should be subjected to the death penalty irrespective of their nationality, the nature of the crime they are alleged to have committed or the time and place of its alleged commission.
- The Law Council applauds the Australian lawyers and the Australian Government who are working to support Mr Chan and Mr Sukumaran
- The Law Council is aware of the Indonesian Government's own efforts to prevent the execution of Indonesian citizens facing the death penalty abroad and commends those efforts as the appropriate response of a compassionate nation.
- The Law Council entreats the President of Indonesia to extend that same national compassion to the Australians facing the death penalty in Indonesia. The President has a power of clemency to reflect the important principle of sovereign compassion and mercy in appropriate cases. The Law Council urges the Indonesian President to consider their individual cases and assess for himself whether their individual circumstances attract the sovereign power of clemency.
- Genuine rehabilitation and contrition is a legitimate reason to yield from a policy of applying the maximum punishment to deter drug trafficking. The exercise of the prerogative power of clemency is an appropriate means of balancing a strong policy of deterrence with a personal, human incentive to atone and reform.
- A copy of the Law Council's Death Penalty Policy Statement is available [online](#).

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