



STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

MEDIA RELEASE



Singh Sentence Demonstrates Need for Cumulative Regime

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State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party Stuart Grimley has today spoken out about the unacceptable sentencing of Melbourne truck driver Mohinder Singh, reigniting his call for cumulative sentencing to be used where there are deaths including murder, manslaughter and in this case, culpable driving.

Last year, Mr Singh, killed four police officers while driving on drugs in his truck on the Eastern Freeway in Melbourne.

Mr Singh was sentenced to a maximum of 22 years in prison, with a non-parole period of 18 years and 6 months. Presiding Judge Paul Coghlan spoke in length about the days leading up to the collision, noting Mr Singh had been taking methamphetamine, dealing methamphetamine and not sleeping.

Upon sentencing, the Judge gave Mr Singh 12 years for each count of Culpable Driving Causing Death. If served cumulatively this would have put Mr Singh behind bars for 48 years. However, only three years will be served cumulatively for three of the Culpable Driving Causing Death charges.

Mr Grimley has said in the past that sentences in Victoria where there are deaths of innocent victims as a result should be served cumulatively, rather than letting perpetrators serve concurrent sentences and receiving a less severe punishment.

Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"On April 22 last year, the lives of four families were changed forever. The actions of Mohinder Singh killed Leading Senior Constable Lynette Taylor, Senior Constable Kevin King and constables Glen Humphris and Josh Prestney, changing their families' lives in the process.

The sentence of 22 years is not enough. In fact he is serving less than half of the sentence he should have received. The Judge handed him 12 years for each count of Culpable Driving Causing Death and he is only serving a maximum of 22 years; this is a terrible blight on our justice system.

The community expectation is that offenders who commit multiple counts of crimes on purpose or due to negligible actions should face maximum sentencing. Sanctions, such as Mohinder Singh's do not meet community expectations.

People who commit multiple crimes in Victoria where innocent people die must serve their sentences cumulatively. Not only does this provide deterrence to potential law breakers, it also keeps our community safe from criminals.

My thoughts are with the families of the officers who died in the line of duty."

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