

# INTERVENTION OPPORTUNITIES



## Overcoming disaffiliation challenges/barriers and identifying support needs

### Disaffiliation challenges

- Personal threats/violence
- Property/financial loss
- Employment difficulties
- Police attention
- Mending relationships with family
- Tattoo removal
- Mental health
- Substance abuse

### Disaffiliation barriers

- Club loyalty
- Membership goal (e.g. leave on good terms, avoid property loss)
- Lack of support

### Key intervention opportunities:

Findings highlight the need for positive employment and mental health support, education and positive mentors to facilitate disaffiliation and overcome barriers.

As social bonds were a key reason behind joining and leaving OMCGs, programs and services that assist the development of other positive bonds (through family, employment, and community interaction) are vital.

#### 1. Incentives, programs and services (e.g. EXIT program)

- a) Employment/training
- b) Tattoo removal
- c) Counselling
- d) Social services
- e) Alcohol/drug addiction services
- f) Prevention and outreach programs (e.g. prison outreach programs)
- g) Access to licences/networks to increase employment opportunities; and
- h) Relocation assistance (e.g. bond, removalists)

#### 2. Education (e.g. media, campaigns, mentors)

Education and mentors can provide disaffiliation advice to help mitigate potential barriers and post-disaffiliation challenges. Media promotion can raise awareness of available support services and negative impacts on family members.

#### 3. Research

Further OMCG research is needed to inform prevention strategies. Evaluations are vital to monitor the effectiveness of implemented programs and tailor future initiatives.

### Main advice from ex-OMCG members

- Be truthful/have good reasons for leaving
- Move away from the area if possible
- Don't tell others before informing the President or chapter
- Have a plan
- Don't owe money and cut losses
- Leave on good terms with the club if possible
- The best times to leave are while still a prospect or after 5-7 years
- Accept the likelihood of being assaulted and losing your motorcycle and other property
- Find support systems
- Approach a trusted member; and
- Seek help



*"I had someone reach out to me at a time when I wanted to get out. It was an officer and he said, 'I'll help you, you help me.' It was stressful, and hard, leaving is the hardest thing, but you've got to accept that and move on. Things get better. I've got a couple of police officers to thank for helping me through that."*

