

community service orders, Pease noted that offenders sentenced to such orders tended to have a lower rate of recidivism than those receiving other sentences. Nevertheless, he considered the results to be inconclusive.

*Recommendation 13*

The Committee recommends that legislation be enacted to permit the imposition of a community service order as a sole sanction or in combination with others, provided that the judge is satisfied that a discharge, restitution, fine or simple probation order alone would not achieve the purpose of sentencing proposed by the Committee.

*Recommendation 14*

The Committee recommends that guidelines for the number of hours of community service which should be imposed in various circumstances be developed to decrease sentencing disparity.

*Recommendation 15*

The Committee recommends that a legislated ceiling of between 300 and 600 hours (over three years) be established for community service sentences for adult offenders, provided that judges be permitted to exceed the ceiling where a greater number of hours is agreed to by the offender as a result of victim-offender reconciliation or an "alternative sentence plan" proposal and reasons are provided by the judge.

*Recommendation 16*

The Committee recommends that legislation be adopted to exclude sexual and violent offenders from eligibility for community service orders unless they have been assessed and found suitable by a community service program coordinator.