Andrew Rule
IN THE REAL WORLD

Nowhere to hide if tough calls turn bad

Price the serial rapist and martial arts fanatic. So much like a church moving a paedophile priest to another parish. Corrections recommended moving the volatile former prisoner to accommodation in Melbourne’s inner west on a close supervision order.

Such decisions are the price we pay — no pun intended — for living in a free society that hardly ever deters anyone not serving a sentence or declared insane. There are only a couple of exceptions to that and perhaps Price should have been another. We can put down dangerous dogs but we can only try to restrain crazed killers. The hard hit is deciding who’s who in the zoo in time to save innocent lives.

Apart from courts and Corrections, it’s the Adult Parole Board that makes most of the tough decisions on behalf of us all. When parolees killed Elsa Corp and Jill Meagher, the board was blamed, which was understandable.

Price and Clifford had to pay — but both had been convicted of serious violence or sex crimes. There were exceptions to that and perhaps Price should have been another. We can put down dangerous dogs but we can only try to restrain crazed killers. The hard hit is deciding who’s who in the zoo in time to save innocent lives.

Parole has always been a lot about rehabilitation. It seems the board has led by example and rehabilitated itself. Now, like its “clients”, it has to stay out of trouble.