

CESC21/

27 May 2021

Leon Last
Committee Manager
Committee on Children and Young People

Dear Mr Last

I write to clarify evidence I gave on 14 May 2021 during the Committee on Children and Young People, Support for Children of Imprisoned Parents in New South Wales hearing. The following point in regard to the evidence recoded in the Uncorrected Transcript is provided to clarify the statement I made:

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During questioning regarding children being penalised when visits are withheld because an inmate has their visits withheld I indicated that visits were a withdrawable privilege. I would like to clarify the answer to reflect a more accurate response as withdrawable privileges have a specific meaning within the statutory framework that governs CSNSW operations and are restricted to withdrawing the privilege of participation in contact visits:

No. It could be that we have information that they are going to try to bring contraband through the visit and things like that, so it is a risk to the security of the centre and not just the security of a person. This could result in the visit being cancelled, a restriction placed on the visitor or the visit taking place as a regulation non-contact visit. Cancelling a visit and imposition of visitor restriction is something that is used as a last resort. We tend to try to not do that because obviously we understand how important it is for a parent to see their child. Inmates behave in a more positive manner when they have that relationship in their life. That is something we encourage strongly. Most of the correctional officers are parents, and we understand that.

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During questioning regarding the Intake Screening Questionnaire and child related questions, I provided information on the response that Corrective Services takes in relation to being advised that a child is, or may be, at home alone. This included making a risk of harm report to the child reporting line. It has been brought to my attention that, while my answer was accurate, the sequencing of response I provided was not clear. I would like the answer to reflect the appropriate sequencing of events

to remove any confusion. The response which commences in the middle of page 70 should be:

That is true. We rely on the answer that they provide us, but we can also rely on what we witness as well. They might say one thing but portray another—you know, "My child is fine," but they are home alone. Things like that. The policy is clear that police must be contacted on 000, if the child/ren are in immediate danger, including if they do not have adult supervision. You do have to rely a little bit on that as well. But yes, you are correct.

A copy of the page containing my statement is attached. I request this information be noted for correction in the final transcript.

Yours sincerely



Emma Smith
GOVERNOR
Dillwynia and Emu Plains Correctional Centres