

**Submission
No 7**

INQUIRY INTO LAW REFORM ISSUES REGARDING SYNTHETIC DRUGS

Organisation: Corrective Services NSW
Name: Mr Ron Woodham
Position: Commissioner
Date Received: 5/04/2012



MLU12/06562

Mr Dominic Perrottet MP
Committee Chair
Legal Affairs Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Perrottet

I refer to your correspondence of 28 February 2012 inviting Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) to make a submission to the inquiry into law reform issues regarding synthetic drugs designed to mimic prohibited drugs.


In relation to the issues raised in your correspondence, I can provide the following comments.

The attempted introduction of any unauthorised substance into a correctional centre or place of detention is an offence under the *Summary Offences Act 1988*. This enables CSNSW to deal with synthetic drugs in this context as contraband.

However, the impact of these substances on the behaviour and physical wellbeing of inmates compromises the safety and security of correctional centres and other residential facilities in the same manner as prohibited drugs. Although CSNSW may be able to deal with the possession of these synthetic substances as contraband, their designation as prohibited drugs would carry more serious consequences and result in criminal charges for their possession. This would assist CSNSW by providing greater deterrence to the introduction and use of these substances in correctional centres.

Accordingly, any attempt to reform the laws to effectively prohibit these substances would be welcome.

Yours sincerely


RON WOODHAM
Commissioner
5 April 2012