



The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP  
Minister for Corrections

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Mr Stewart Little  
General Secretary  
Public Service Association of NSW  
160 Clarence Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Little,

*Stewart*

I am extremely disappointed in the PSA's conduct today.

The decision to take industrial action is reckless and illegal, and flies in the face of the constructive discussions that we have been having over recent weeks.

The last thing our state needs right now is unions walking off the job when our communities are experiencing one of the worst flooding disasters in our state's history.

The NSW Government's priority is to keep our corrections staff and the community safe.

As I have continuously acknowledged during our discussions, correctional staff play a vital role in supporting inmates and ensuring the safety of our community.

I have been working hard to address the concerns that you have raised during our discussions, particularly with respect to the sentencing of offenders who commit assaults against correctional staff.

The NSW Government wants sentences for deliberate violent acts committed against emergency service workers, including correctional staff to meet community expectations. That is why the Attorney General asked the Sentencing Council to review the sentencing schemes for these types of offences.

The report from the Sentencing Council has been received by the NSW Government. It makes recommendations that extend offences against law enforcement officers to include all correctional staff, cover assaults that occur against correctional staff whilst inmates are on remand, provide further guidance and training for prosecutors and the judiciary about existing laws that permit consecutive sentencing in circumstances where correctional staff are assaulted and also strengthen sentencing for assaults against law enforcement officers during public disorders.

As Minister for Corrections, I want correctional staff to feel that the justice system that they work so hard for also supports them when they need it. This is a priority for me and also a priority for the Attorney General.

I strongly support the recommendations of the Sentencing Council and have been advocating for their adoption within government. Work on responding to the Sentencing Council is well advanced for NSW Government consideration this month and will be announced shortly.

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I note that in the notice of dispute, concerns are expressed about the lack of communication from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and a request is made of the Attorney General to ensure the same issues do not occur in future proceedings.


As the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) is an independent office, the NSW Government is unable to direct the Director or her office in relation to their prosecutorial functions or conduct.

However, the Attorney General has written to the Director today to draw your concerns to her attention.

I urge the PSA to reverse today's decision, stop this action immediately and work with government in the genuine interests of correctional officers to ensure our staff and our community are kept safe.

As always, please reach out to myself or my office to discuss any matters.

Yours Sincerely



**The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP**  
Minister for Corrections

CC: The Hon. Damien Tudehope MLC, Minister for Finance, and Minister for Employee Relations

**02 MAR 2022**

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