



Corrective Services NSW
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28 March 2013

Ms Miriam Cullen
Principal Council Officer
Select Committee on the Closure or Downsizing of
Corrective Services NSW facilities
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Cullen

Inquiry into the closure or downsizing of Corrective Services NSW facilities

I refer to your letter dated 7 March 2013 and provide responses to the questions taken on notice and the supplementary question following the Inquiry into the closure or downsizing of Corrective Services NSW facilities on 1 March 2013.

Yours sincerely

PETER SEVERIN
COMMISSIONER

Encl:

**RESPONSES TO TRANSCRIPT QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE FROM THE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLOSURE OR DOWNSIZING OF CORRECTIVE
SERVICES NSW FACILITIES**

Remand numbers

CHAIR: I noted that you were present while Dr Paget made his presentation to the Committee. Can you provide the Committee with the statistics for remand numbers? I think he said they were high security in any case in dollar cost terms versus penal outcomes. Could you present something to the Committee on that at some stage?

Mr SEVERIN: I will see if I can access the detailed statistics otherwise I will have to take that on notice. I can give you a breakdown of classifications to start with. This is the 2011 prisoner census, which is done by the Australian Bureau of Statistics: 19.4 per cent of inmates were classified maximum security, 23.9 per cent were classified medium security, 53.7 per cent were classified as minimum security and 3 per cent of inmates were unclassified at that time because they would have just entered custody a short while earlier.

Answer:

I am advised that as at 17 March 2013, the total full-time custody population was **9,905** inmates. Of this figure, **2,815** inmates were being held on remand.

The cost per remandee per day is generally higher than the cost of managing a sentenced inmate, owing to factors such as increased visits, screening and reception, and the fact that remand centres are more secure than other correctional centres. For example, the average cost of keeping a maximum security inmate (including a remandee) at the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre in 2011-12 was \$170 per inmate per day; compared with say, the cost of a sentenced inmate at South Coast Correctional Centre at around \$159 per inmate per day.

**RESPONSES TO TRANSCRIPT QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE FROM THE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLOSURE OR DOWNSIZING OF CORRECTIVE
SERVICES NSW FACILITIES**

Offenders on community orders

The Hon. MICK VEITCH: Can you provide the current number of people on community orders that you are managing? You might have to take this on notice.

Mr SEVERIN: I will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

As at 17 March 2013, the following numbers of offenders on community-based orders were subject to supervision by Community Corrections, Corrective Services NSW:

- 84 home detention orders
- 946 intensive correction orders
- 2,563 community service orders
- 4,564 parole orders
- 7,361 good behaviour bonds
- 164 bail supervision orders
- 233 Drug Court orders
- 2,078 suspended sentences.

**RESPONSES TO TRANSCRIPT QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE FROM THE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLOSURE OR DOWNSIZING OF CORRECTIVE
SERVICES NSW FACILITIES**

AVL technology and Rehabilitation applications

CHAIR: Maybe Grafton will be one of the first places you look into that.

Another comment that came from that submission is that applications for residential rehabilitation were able to be facilitated by staff from the Grafton Aboriginal Legal Service office attending Grafton Correctional Centre and assisting inmates to fill out rehabilitation applications. The requests for assistance came from inmates from all over the State of New South Wales and were referred through the Aboriginal Legal Service office. Due to the relocation of inmates, the process of assisting inmates with rehabilitation applications is more difficult and more reliant on correctional centre staff at other centres. Do you want to comment on that?

Mr SEVERIN: I am not entirely familiar with the arrangement that existed at Grafton prior to the downsizing in relation to the Aboriginal Legal Service. We obviously have Aboriginal Legal Service coverage in all our facilities. We also employ Aboriginal staff specifically for those purposes in our major facilities, but I am happy to take that on notice.

Answer:

With regard to the availability of video conferencing to facilitate contact between Legal Aid and other legal officers and inmates, I am advised that video conferencing facilities are available for use by inmates at Grafton Correctional Centre. Approximately 25 private solicitors participate in a webcam based program which enables the use of video conferencing between solicitors and inmate clients. A webcam is typically used by the solicitor at his or her desk to take instructions and to give advice. The program is available for any solicitor/ professional who would like to apply, and inmates housed in any correctional centre in NSW where video conferencing facilities are in place.

In addition, an online telephone scheduling pilot has been trialled over the past 12 months and is presently being used at Bathurst, Grafton, and Goulburn Correctional Centres. The Pilot is being rolled out to a further eight (8) correctional centres this financial year. Solicitors/professionals will be able to use the scheduling system to book a telephone in a correctional centre to facilitate an audio conference with their client.

In relation to the issue of Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) responsibility for facilitating court-ordered assessments for placement in an Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) rehabilitation centre, CSNSW is in the process of assisting Aboriginal-specific rehabilitation centres in NSW to register for access to the online telephone service as a means of conducting their assessments. In consultation with the judiciary, CSNSW is also currently reviewing the format and content of pre sentence AOD reports, to ensure that information required by the courts is provided efficiently and succinctly in minimum time.

CSNSW is not aware of any Service Agreements between the Aboriginal Legal Service (ALS) at Grafton and Grafton Correctional Centre, however an Aboriginal Field Officer from the ALS attends the Correctional Centre every three weeks or as required. The Field Officer is available upon request to make an application on behalf of an Aboriginal offender and to assess the offender's suitability for placement in a rehabilitation program.

The six Aboriginal-specific rehabilitation centres in NSW which can accept court referrals are as follows:

- Namitjira Haven Ballina (Far North Coast)
- Bennelong Haven Kinchela Creek (near Kempsey Mid North Coast)
- The Glen Chittaway Bay (near Central Coast)
- Orana Haven Gongolgon (near Bourke Far North West)
- Roy Thorne Moree (Far North)
- Oolong House Nowra (South Coast)

**RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM THE SELECT
COMMITTEE ON THE CLOSURE OR DOWNSIZING OF CORRECTIVE SERVICES
NSW FACILITIES**

- 1. Can the Commissioner compare the pattern of industrial action between the Gen 1 gaols and the modern gaols over the past decade?**

Answer:

It is not possible to accurately compare the pattern of industrial action at older correctional centres with the pattern at modern correctional centres over the period in question. The information collected by CSNSW for its workforce management purposes, and the manner in which it is collated, does not lend itself to such a comparison.

The level of industrial action across the correctional system or at individual correctional centres is influenced by various factors. Industrial action can be in response to broad organisational issues or to local issues at individual correctional centres. The nature of the industrial action taken can also range from minor changes to operational routine to the complete withdrawal of labour.

The CSNSW information shows that some 'Gen 1' correctional centres and some modern correctional centres experience relatively low levels of industrial action while others experience higher levels. However, on the basis of the available information, definitive conclusions cannot be reached about the relationship between the age and physical characteristics of correctional centres and the pattern of industrial action.