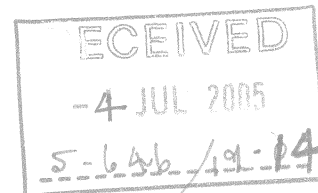


**From:** <peter.pf.rock@centrelink.gov.au>  
**To:** <lawandjustice@parliament.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** Fri, Jul 1, 2005 2:37 pm  
**Subject:** Att: Annie Marshall - Centrelink services to released prisoners - Inquiry into Community Based Sentencing Options

Ms Marshall

Centrelink has been asked to provide a response to the following question for the NSW Parliament Law and Justice Standing Committee - Inquiry into Community based Sentencing Options :



How many prisoners have you spoken to who have the money in their pocket when they walk out the gate? How many walk out the prison gate and have to be pro active and come to you?

Centrelink's response is as follows:

"While I have not personally spoken with any released prisoners about this issue, I can offer some information.

In NSW during 2004, Centrelink interviewed 4,035 prisoners prior to their release. Centrelink was notified of their impending release and made arrangements to assess these prisoners for payments and other services prior to them leaving the correctional facility.

A further 5,666 NSW prisoners were interviewed post release. The majority of these cases were court and short term parole releases where Centrelink, and often the prisoners themselves, had no prior knowledge of their release. It is estimated that 40% of all releases are from the court system.

Centrelink works with correctional authorities across Australia to ensure released prisoners have quick and easy access to Centrelink payments. Those who are not interviewed pre release are treated as urgent cases and are able to obtain an immediate appointment with Centrelink. This ensures that all prisoners in NSW should be able to access funds on the day of their release."

I trust this satisfactorily addresses your question.

Peter Rock

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Peter Rock  
National Manager  
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----- Forwarded by Peter PF Rock/NSO/CSDA on 01/07/2005 02:21 PM -----

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