

**INQUIRY INTO CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2006**

Organisation:

Name: Dr Simon de Burgh

Telephone:

Date Received: 31/07/2006

Subject:

Summary

RECEIVED

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GPSC's

General Purposes Standing Committee #3
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Fax 9230 3416

Corrective Services Legislation Amendment Bill

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Bill.

As I understand it, the Bill would outlaw a standard medical procedure to preserve fertility in a tiny number of prisoners undergoing cancer treatment. I also understand that the Amendment is proposed in response to tabloid newspaper publicity over such a case.

My first comment is that Committee Members will know that tabloid campaigns of this type are commonly shallow in content and cynical in purpose, and in any case are transient.

Secondly may I express concern that the Amendment appears to be setting a miserable precedent in withholding standard medical treatment for an essentially political reason. Incarceration is the punishment handed down by the legal process, abnormal medical management is not. Were I faced with a law denying my professional and ethical duty, I could not comply, and I suggest that most doctors, including your own, would feel the same way.

Yours faithfully,



Simon de Burgh, B.Sc.(Med.), M.B.B.S., D.T.P.H., Ph.D., F.A.F.P.H.M.,
F.A.Ch.A.M.