

Submission
No 27

**INQUIRY INTO ISSUES RELATING TO THE OPERATIONS
AND MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIVE SERVICES**

Organisation:

Name: The Hon Judy Spence
Position: Corrective Services Minister
Telephone: 07 3239 0199
Date Received: 23/02/2006

Subject:

Summary



Judy Spence MP
Member for Mount Gravatt

15 FEB 2006

Legislative Council
GENERAL PURPOSE
STANDING COMMITTEES

23 FEB 2006

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**Queensland
Government**

Office of the
**Minister for Police and
Corrective Services**

The Honourable Amanda Fazio MLC
Committee Chair
General Purpose Standing Committee No.3
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Amanda

Thank you for your letter of 7 December 2005, regarding the "Inquiry into Issues Relating to the Operations and Management of the Department of Corrective Services".

A recurring concern for the Queensland Department of Corrective Services, and included in the terms of reference for the inquiry, is the issue of interstate transfers of offenders and parolees.

The diverse approval and registration processes across the various jurisdictions often act to impede an offender's rehabilitation and reintegration back into the community. On occasion, an offender may be prevented from pursuing accommodation or work prospects in another state or territory due to miscommunication and delays arising from the current systems of transfer.

The issue of transferring parole and other community based orders was raised at the Corrective Services Administrators' Conference in April 2005. My Department suggested that application for transfer of interstate parole orders be made while the offender is still in custody, under the *Prisoners (Interstate Transfer) Act 1982*, so that the receiving jurisdiction could assess the applicant's suitability for community based release in that jurisdiction; or if the applicant is on parole, that the receiving jurisdiction supervise the parolee for a short term (eg one month) before making a decision about whether to accept transfer of the order.

A system of formal registration, supported by legislation of community based orders, should be developed to provide for enhanced supervision practices particularly in regard to high risk offenders.

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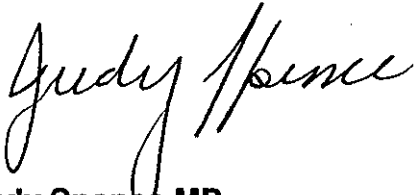
Due to the sometimes inconsistent and arbitrary approaches being adopted across jurisdictions, it is suggested a nationally consistent system, in line with the *Prisoners (Interstate Transfer) Act 1982*, would minimise:

- miscommunication and confusion regarding transfer procedures;
- inconsistent practices;
- time delays between approval and registration of interstate orders;
- conflicts between jurisdictions regarding supervision; and
- lost residential, social and economic opportunities for offenders.

Thank you for seeking my input on this matter and I look forward to receiving the committee's findings.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Spence". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Judy Spence MP
Minister for Police and Corrective Services

Ref: C/05/00652