

**Submission
No 12**

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

Organisation:

Name: Dr Penny Abbott

Telephone:

Date Received: 25/07/2006

Subject:

Summary

From: "penny abbott"
To: <gpscno3@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Date: Tue, Jul 25, 2006 8:37 pm
Subject: General Purposes Standing Committee #3 re the Corrective Services Legislation Amendment Bill

General Purposes Standing Committee #3 re the Corrective Services Legislation Amendment Bill

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to express my concern about the Correctional Services Amendment Bill which is coming before parliament shortly. After years working as a GP with disadvantaged communities, including 10 years as a visiting GP at Emu Plains Correctional centre, I firmly believe that it is a basic core principle that you must not lose your rights to unprejudiced healthcare because you are imprisoned. The rights to equity in health care must be unchanged by your status in society, even if you are a prisoner, as a basic principle of a civilised society such as ours. For example, if a person needs to have chemotherapy for cancer and therefore may lose their fertility they are offered the medical choice of having reproductive material preserved for the future. Hope for the future is an important part of rehabilitation and what we all work towards when we work within a custodial setting. Although an amendment like this may seem innocuous on the surface, and potentially satisfyingly populist, I find it a frightening development which threatens the Australian principles of health equity.

Please do not allow us to go down this path. I have been a Labor voter for many years as a supporter of human rights and society moving forward and not backward and this would be an example of moving backwards

Dr Penny Abbott

MBBS FRACGP MPH