

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

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Ms Julie Simpson

**Telephone:**

**Date Received:** 31/07/2006

---

**Subject:**

**Summary**

General Purpose Standing Committee Number 3  
Parliament House  
Macquarie St  
Sydney 2000

RECEIVED

31 JUL 2006

GPSC's

RE: Correctional Services Legislation Amendments Bill 2006

I wish to lodge an objection to the above legislation amendment on the following grounds:-

1. Lack of community consultation surrounding the introduction of the Bill.

Although I welcome the opportunity to become more familiar with the details of this legislation through the pursuit of an inquiry, I object to the fact that the legislation was rushed into and through parliament initially. Rather than firstly informing the wider community and providing us an opportunity to carefully consider the legislation, it took forceful objection from public organisations, individuals and MP's of minority parties to share their anguish and concerns about the legislation for this matter to be given its rightful degree of consideration.

2. Potential Violation of Human Rights

The right to receive adequate medical care is considered a basic human right. Australia's citizens are in the fortunate position to receive medical care of the highest standard. I believe that denying this right to any of our citizens would be a violation of human rights. Concerned citizens cannot simply look on as our fellow citizens, including prisoners, are potentially denied this basic right, as to do so would place us among the most draconian of societies. Surely our civilised society has respect for family life and would assume that every individual has a right to found a family, even prisoners, once released.

3. Implied lack of faith in the rehabilitation process

By denying these basic human rights, I am extremely concerned as to what the Government is implying about future contribution of prisoners to our society. By initiating this legislation, what are we implying about the potential quality of our rehabilitation process and individuals contributions to society once their terms are served. I query as to whether it should be the rehabilitation and support process which should be under enquiry, given the high incidence of repeat offence in the New South Wales prison system.

4. Further Erosion of Rights of those least empowered.

It concerns me to note the disproportional number of Indigenous Australians and high level of mental illness among those within our prison system. It seems as though once again those least empowered within our community, including a disproportionate number of people who have been dependent upon the welfare system, are those potentially subject to a second rate health care and potential violation of human rights through this legislation. This situation can only build upon a disgraceful history of the Government's duty of care to these already disenfranchised members of our society.

5. Impact on Family Members

The passing of this legislation has the potential to have devastating effects upon members of a prisoners' immediate family. Legislation which leaves individuals without options to pursue a family life after their period of incarceration (within the context of the ideal that respect for family life and the right to found a family are an internationally recognised human right) in relation to the contents of the Bill, could mean that partners are also punished without committing an offence.

I am appalled by the apparent disregard for basic human rights being demonstrated by this proposal, and hold utmost concern for where legislation such as this may potentially lead.



Julie Simpson