

**Submission
No 5**

INQUIRY INTO PARKLEA CORRECTIONAL CENTRE AND OTHER OPERATIONAL ISSUES

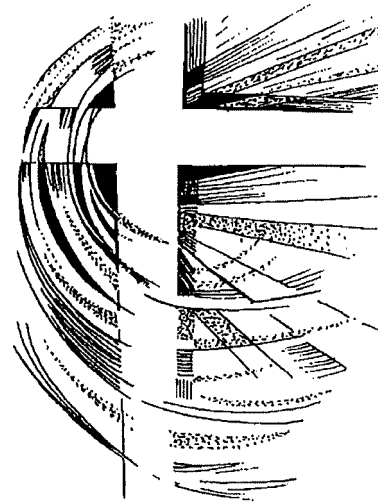
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Date received: 31 January 2018

Parklea Correctional Centre

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29th January 2018



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I was engaged as a volunteer at Parklea Correctional Centre (PCC) since 2008 when I was a Minister at Blacktown Uniting Church. From 2008 to June 2016, I conducted worship services and provided pastoral care for inmates. I was appointed full time Chaplain at PCC on the 1st of July 2016. I also served as a voluntary Chaplain at Goulburn Correctional Centre (a government run centre) from 2003 to 2007 when I was a minister at the Canberra City Uniting Church.

The following are some of my experiences and observations as I interact with the Parklea Correctional Centre administration and management structures, inmates and staff.

(a) **Security and safety.**

- I always felt protected and supported by the custodial staff and the management. Not once that I felt my security and safety is compromised. The staffs are always courteous and professional in the conduct of their duties in relationship to our presence in the pods. They always ensure to provide us with the appropriate support and facilitation that we as chaplains need to carry out the pastoral care duties for the inmates we serve.
- The security awareness training is thorough. I did the online training first before doing the face to face class which was the opportunity to have interactions with the assigned teacher. There was also refresher sessions conducted from time to time.
- The custodial staffs, without fail is thorough and professional in ensuring that chaplains and staff alike do not bring contrabands inside the Centre. Every morning, upon entry at the main gate, the staff would ask the question whether

or not we have contrabands in our possession. Any items we bring into the centre are to have prior approval and x-rayed.

- Any pastors, ministers, religious leaders who wish to enter the Centre had to go through the required identity checking process.
- Any foods or resources that we bring into the Centre for the activities we run must also go through the checking process. Nothing happens until the Manager for the Offender Services, General Manager, Operations Manager and Manager for Intelligence have given specific terms of approval.
- The Programme Officer also plays an important role in facilitating the execution of the programmes we chaplains' run. There are always staffs to provide oversight and support for the programmes we chaplains run.

(b) **Education and rehabilitation**

- Parklea Correctional centre is **very intentional in promoting spiritual and life skill programmes** for the inmates. I have been involved with the Positive Lifestyles programme (individual) offered by the Salvation Army and the Journey Programme offered by Prison Fellowship International. Some of the Chaplains ran the Seasons for Growth programme also offered by Salvation Army. Security and support is always provided by the custodial officers in order to run these activities without compromising the security and safety of those participating in the activities.
- I'm also part of the **Kairos programme** which brings in community leaders to run the programme. The organisation is thorough and meticulous especially with security requirements. I'm very happy to see that Chaplaincy, Welfare services and together with the Kairos community group all work together to ensure that the security and safety requirements are met.
- I run a weekly **gospel and culture programme** for Maoris and Pacific Islanders. This shows Parklea Correctional Centre is happy to include alternative ways of helping inmates rehabilitate.
- **Focus on aboriginals** – I'm also part of the programme for aboriginal inmates. I value the opportunity given to me to work together with the aboriginal leader and inmates using culture and spiritual development to enable change in the lives of the inmates.

(c) **Worship Services**

- The staffs are always cooperative in ensuring that inmates turned up to the services at chapel. They always look out for our security and safety as chaplains.

(d) **Building communities**

- **General Manager's Address BBQs** – The monthly BBQs promote and fosters a strong sense of community. It's always a good time to hear the latest developments in the Centre.
- **Christmas presents for the inmates children during Christmas.**
I thought providing the inmates' children with gifts, was a very generous act. It captures very well Parklea's community spirit and its desire to reach out to the community and help those at the margins of society.
- **Care for the staff.** Parklea Correctional Centre cares for its staff especially those who are terminally ill. One of the staff and his family who had cancer last year was well supported by the PCC staff. Donations were raised by the staff including donating their annual and sick leave for the staff concern.

In conclusion, I'm very happy to say that I always feel safe working in the Parklea Correctional Centre. The processes for security and training are thorough and very informative. The searches that the custodial staffs carry out when we enter the centre are always thorough and conducted in a professional manner. The staffs are always supportive and willing to help us have access to the inmates we want to see especially those who attend programmes and worship services. Parklea's persistence in fostering and building a community spirit in the centre is an important ingredient in promoting trust and loyalty from the staff.

Yours faithfully,

Rev'd Liva Tukutama,
Chaplain