

DIRECTIONS WHILE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DATED 8 JUNE 2020 IS IN FORCE

Sections 157(1A), 263 and 268(4) of the *Corrective Services Act 2006*

On 8 June 2020 I, Peter Martin APM, Commissioner, Queensland Corrective Services, with the approval of the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, declared that an emergency exists in relation to all corrective services facilities (the Declaration) for a period of 90 days from 9 June 2020 until 11:59pm on 6 September 2020.

The Declaration was made following advice from the Chief Health Officer who believed it was necessary to make the Declaration to assist in containing, or to respond to, the spread of COVID-19 within corrective services facilities and the wider community.

Today, in light of new cases of COVID-19 recorded in South East Queensland, the proximity of those cases to several Queensland corrective services facilities and identified community transmission of COVID-19, in consultation with the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre, I have decided it is reasonable and necessary to preserve the security or good order of the corrective services facilities to suspend all visitor access pursuant to section 157(1A) of the *Corrective Services Act 2006* (CS Act) for all visitors other than:

- a. an accredited visitor where access is approved by me;
- b. a government visitor where access is approved by me;
- c. a casual site visitor where access is approved by me;
- d. a law enforcement visitor;
- e. an emergency services officer;
- f. a professional visitor whose attendance is necessary to perform health duties or provide psychological care and access is approved by me;
- g. a commercial visitor whose attendance is necessary to perform essential maintenance or delivery of essential goods and services and access is approved by me;
- h. elders, respected persons and spiritual healers, where access is approved by me; and
- i. religious visitors, where access is approved by me. (**Suspension Decision**)

The Suspension Decision is directed to apply under Stage 3 restriction conditions at the following corrective services facilities:

- Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre
- Borallon Training and Correctional Centre
- Brisbane Correctional Centre
- Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre
- Wolston Correctional Centre
- Helana Jones Centre
- Southern Queensland Correctional Centre
- Palen Creek Correctional Centre
- Numinbah Correctional Centre
- Woodford Correctional Centre
- Maryborough Correctional Centre.

The Suspension Decision will take effect immediately on my signing of this direction and remain in place until further notice, for a period of up to one year. I confirm I have also considered the following in making my Suspension Decision:

- the effect of a proposed suspension on a child for whom approval has been given to accompany the visitor; and

- whether the child may, unaccompanied by an adult, visit the prisoner. The entry of any person, including children, could potentially put corrective services facilities at risk.

I direct that while the Declaration is in force:

1. the wearing of a surgical face mask as approved personal protective equipment is mandatory for any staff or approved visitor to any corrective services facility to which the Suspension Decision applies where they are unable to socially distance or are in close contact with a prisoner in excess of 15 minutes;
2. the wearing of a surgical face mask and gloves as personal protective equipment is mandatory for staff undertaking the escorting of prisoners within the operation of the Escort and Security Branch;
3. the 14-day isolation of new admissions under the 'Managing Prisoner Receptions' policy will apply to any corrective services facility to which the Suspension Decision applies;
4. the Queensland Corrective Services 'Managing Employee Health Risks to COVID-19' policy will continue to apply to all corrective services facilities, whether the Suspension Decision applies to them or not;
5. the Queensland Corrective Services 'Managing Vulnerable Prisoners' policy will continue to apply to all corrective services facilities, whether the Suspension Decision applies to them or not; and
6. the Queensland Corrective Services 'Managing new admission reception prisoners and COVID-19 Isolation' policy continues to apply to all corrective services facilities to which the Suspension Decision does not apply.

These directions are made pursuant to sections 263(2) and 268(4) of the CS Act. They have been made in consultation with Queensland Health and the Chief Health Officer and in accordance with the approach taken by the Queensland Government to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.

Given the high risks to a vulnerable prison population if COVID-19 were to enter a corrective services facility, I consider that any impact on the human rights of prisoners, staff, family members or any other person as a result of these directions is demonstrably justifiable.

These directions revoke and replace the previous directions made by me pursuant to sections 263(2) and 268(4) of the CS Act on 20 August 2020.



Peter Martin APM

Commissioner, Queensland Corrective Services

22 August 2020