

NSW Law Reform Commission
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21 February 2014

Most Honourable Members,

I am currently in Long Bay Prison. I have communicated a few times with the Attorney General and the Corrective Services Commissioner on various issues -- they were kind enough to reply.

I have been in Prison for 8½ years and am awaiting my parole. I have experienced many things in Prison of which I expressed to those concerned. It has always interested me as to how to improve the governing of the established organization. I have been advised that I should write to you and give you some ideas to consider:

There are multiple problems for inmates to find a place to stay once their parole is near -- e.g., to rent a place, they need a family member or friend to seek out a place. However, once they find a place, and an application is put forward to rent -- if approved, they are locked into a contract. At that point Parole Officers do a drive-by and interview the owner or Agent or persons who may share the place. But at this point, the Parole Office may reject the place -- and the inmate remains in Prison. This is often long into his parole. It is a "catch-22", because once you have signed the lease you are bound. Something needs to be changed.

First, Parole gives you very little to go on as to what one needs to look for! So, why does Parole not look for a place and advise the inmate -- then have a contract signed?

Secondly, as the Cospe Centres are now closed except for one -- hundreds of inmates have nowhere to go -- and thus spend much of their parole in Prison. This is a cost to your Government at \$285/day. The purpose of parole is lost -- so where is Truth in Sentencing, when the Courts give you a parole? So, why not make available the Officers in-house quarters or a special Wing where inmates can go daily on Day Leave until they find their own place to rent?

Then we have the problem of Cubit. In most cases an inmate is offered the course only weeks before they are eligible for parole -- so in all cases inmates in parole time are still in Prison.

We also have the situation of those doing a Cubit course or Care in a Therapeutic area inclosed -- once they complete their course (as most are in their parole time) they must remain in Prison until the Parole Board approves their release. The inmate is taken out of the therapeutic environment (who is supposed to be prepared to live out in the world a cured person) yet they are thrown back into the main stream of the Prison again. So their training of rehabilitation is immediately ruined -- because once re-entering the main stream of Prison population (which is a college for criminology); and in most cases they have to remain in this situation for 1-6 months before the various reports are prepared for the Parole Board to make a true decision which will benefit the inmate, families and the general public.

Can I suggest that a special Wing be operated for all those who complete their course -- waiting their release -- and maybe include those who return to Prison if they breach parole conditions. So that those

who have just just completed their course can be of help to those who broke their parole conditions.

Finally, most honourable members, there needs to be another way of preparing inmates to re-enter the world. The Prison System must change. There should be a Prison for each type of crime. This will stop much of the violence, drugs, etc. Inmates need incentives to want to change. The Sentences need to be less -- giving a system of down-grading. Long Sentences do not change a person -- rather it is how the System is designed to rehabilitate. Most prisoners are a reflection of their upbringing as children, then teenagers, young adults and older generations. In most cases, all have been abused with violence, alcoholic parents, sexual perversion, broken homes, drugs. They are drawn into crime. The Cubit core, etc -- courses only tap into the reason for the crime. But the courses should first tap into the inmates past and help to heal that -- then go into the reason for the crime.

Once the course has been done -- place the inmate into a Wing where a C3 is issued and Day Leave is given weekly or Weekend Leave to prepare the inmate for outside, while he waits for the decision of Parole. This will give the inmate a way to look for a place to live -- and no pressure. In other words, a system of stage release. The inmates need rewards like remissions once practiced by the NSW Government. Have a look at other non-western Countries -- e.g, two (2) month to six (6) month, etc remissions per year for good behavior (in taking a course, education, etc).

Thank you for considering these ideas.

Yours truly,

William Kamm [REDACTED]

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