



# Prison News

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PEOPLE IN PRISON IN QLD

PRISONERS LEGAL SERVICE INC

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JUSTICE BEHIND BARS

## *New name, same service*

Our prison information sheet is back! In light of feedback from our clients, we have decided to rename this publication from *Chainmail* to *Prison News*. PLS produces this information sheet every second month to provide accurate information and updates on legal issues that may be of interest to people in prison.

## *COVID-19 Prison Update*

Since 10 July 2020, personal visits to prisons have been re-introduced. Visits will look different to before the COVID-19 outbreak, with some precautions being put in place to limit the risk of infection. These are:

- Health screening and temperature checks upon arrival
- Handwashing and sanitising upon arrival and departure
- No physical contact between visitors and prisoners

Further, you will be allowed one visit each week with one adult visitor for an hour. Alternatively, you may opt to have one 30-minute virtual personal visit each week instead.

In addition to reinstated personal visits, the recently introduced prisoner email and voicemail system will continue to operate. Under this system your family and friends may contact you by leaving voicemails or sending emails.

To sign up for the email system, the person wishing to contact you must sign-up online at [emailprisoner.com.au](mailto:emailprisoner.com.au). Once they have created an account, they will be able to send you an email through this system.

To sign up for the voicemail system, the person wishing to contact you must be added to your phone account. Once they have created an account, they will be given a landline number, and will be able to make calls and leave voicemails. You may call the same landline number to check for, listen to, and respond to voicemails. Family and friends of people in prison can call our Community Advice line on Mondays and Wednesday evenings for further information on 3846 5290.

PLS will continue to monitor the changes to prison processes as a result of COVID-19 pandemic and advocate for human rights and prisoner wellbeing to be at the forefront of decisions being made by Queensland Corrective Services.

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This broadsheet is intended to provide legal information only and is no substitute for legal advice. If you wish to take any action arising from matters raised in this publication you should consult a lawyer immediately.



PLS respectfully acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners and custodians of this land and acknowledges their Elders, past, present and emerging.

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## ***Project COIPE***

Project COIPE (court ordered immediate parole eligibility) is an initiative of the Parole Board Queensland (PBQ) aimed at reducing the time people spend in custody after their parole eligibility date.

Under this project, the PBQ will consider certain parole applications within two weeks (ten business days) from when they are received. They will either make a decision or defer the matter to obtain further material.

### **Am I eligible?**

At this stage, the project is only available for people who receive an immediate parole eligibility date in the following courts:

- Brisbane Supreme and District Courts (since 05 May 2020)
- Beenleigh District and Magistrates Courts (since 02 March 2020)
- Ipswich District and Magistrates Courts (since 02 September 2019)
- Cairns District and Supreme Court (since 29 April 2020)

If you were sentenced in any of the above courts after the relevant date, and received an immediate parole eligibility date, you can apply for parole through Project COIPE.

### **What do I need to do?**

If you are eligible, you will need to make a standard parole application using Form 29. The application may be submitted by yourself through Sentence Management, your lawyer, or a third party. You should ask Sentence Management to send your application to the COIPE project at [COIPE@dcs.qld.gov.au](mailto:COIPE@dcs.qld.gov.au)

### **Is this project a change to the law?**

No. This project is not provided for under law. It was designed by the PBQ to help streamline the process for people who receive immediate eligibility dates. It does not guarantee that your application will be considered within two weeks or that you will be released.

### **What if I'm not eligible?**

If you are not eligible, your parole application will be subject to the standard time-frame. The PBQ will have 4 months (120 days) to make a decision from when your application was received. They may instead decide within 5 months (150 days), if they need more information.

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Prisoners' Legal Service Inc.  
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Free Advice Line  
Tuesdays (Southern Prisons)  
Thursdays (Northern Prisons)  
9am-11 and 12pm-2pm

PLS is a free service helping prisoners in Queensland with parole, prison law matters and financial counselling.