Prisoners' Legal Service

Prison News

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PEOPLE IN PRISON IN QLD
PRISONERS' LEGAL SERVICE INC
129th Edition June 2023

Inspector of Detention Services

Last year, the Queensland Government passed a new law that establishes an Inspector of Detention Services (the Inspector).

The Inspector's purpose is to improve places of detention with a focus on:

- Promoting and upholding the humane treatment of detainees, including humane conditions of their detention; and
- Preventing detainees from being subjected to harm, including torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

The Inspector will:

- Prepare and publish standards for inspections;
- Inspect places of detention in Queensland, including prisons, watch-houses and youth detention centres; and
- Report to Parliament on inspection visits and make recommendations for improvement to places of detention.

The Inspector will focus on the prevention of harm rather than responding to complaints when harm occurs. The Inspector will examine systems and the lived experiences of people who are detained.

The position of the Inspector will be held by the Queensland Ombudsman but will have its own resourcing, with separate and distinct functions and powers.

The Ombudsman is currently preparing standards for inspections of youth detention centres, prisons and watch-houses. When they carry out inspections, the Inspector will use these standards to assess the detention services.

PLS is providing the Ombudsman with feedback about what should be included in Inspection Standards. PLS will provide updates about the progress of this new inspection body as we receive further information.

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.

Queensland Parole System Review 2

In 2016, the Queensland Parole System Review (QPSR) was completed, which examined the effectiveness, transparency and adequacy of parole decision making to address risk and increase successful completion of parole and reintegration into the community.

A comprehensive report detailing the findings and recommendations of the QPSR was published in 2017. The Queensland Government supported or supported-in-principle 89 of the 91 recommendations.

One of the recommendations was that a further review into the parole system should be conducted after a period of 5 years.

In 2022, the Queensland Government announced that a second review into the Queensland Parole System would take place (QPSR2).

The main focus of the QPSR2 is to review the action taken since the QPSR was completed and whether there have been improvements to enhance public safety and outcomes for prisoners, including by reducing reoffending.

PLS has consulted with the QPSR2 review team and made written submissions advocating for significant changes to the law and parole system to improve fairness and increase prisoners' participation in parole decision making processes.

We highlighted that promoting access to justice for prisoners in the parole system does not conflict with the primary purpose of parole, which is to keep the community safe from crime. This is because improving fairness in parole decision making, enhances the quality and accuracy of information being considered when determining whether a person poses a risk to the community.

How to contact us

	By phone: Call our free advice line on Tuesdays between 9-11am and 12-2pm
	By mail: Send a free blue letter to GPO Box 257, Brisbane, Qld 4001

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