Prison News

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PEOPLE IN PRISON IN QLD
SEPTEMBER 2024

Prisoners' Legal Service
GPO Box 257, Brisbane, QLD 4001

About Time Newspaper is coming to Queensland

About Time is the national newspaper for Australian prisons and detention facilities. The idea comes from a similar newspaper in the United Kingdom.

Earlier this year, the first edition of About Time was published and distributed in all prisons in Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory.

We are very pleased to report that About Time recently received approval from Queensland Corrective Services for the paper to be distributed in Queensland. Distribution of About Time in Queensland prisons will start in October 2024.

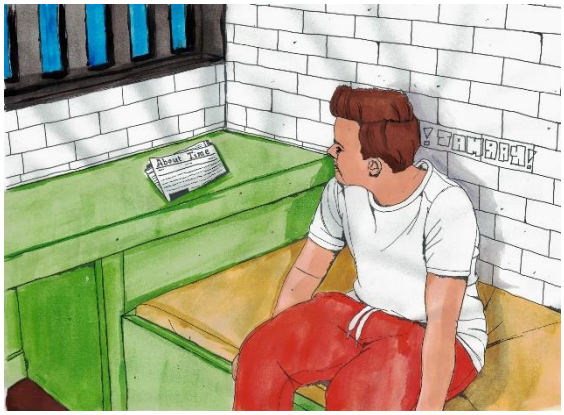
About Time seeks to provide incarcerated people with a voice. It is a platform for news and education, expression and hope.

The paper is independent from Corrections and is published monthly by the non-profit About Time Media Ltd which is primarily funded by donations.

Every month, PLS will prepare content for Queensland prisoners and provide it to About Time, to feature in their "News Around the Country" and other sections of the newspaper.

What will be in the newspaper?

- **Letters:** letters from incarcerated people and letters from people outside prison, including family and friends, and people who were formerly imprisoned.
- **News and Investigations:** topical stories focused on prisons and criminal justice.
- **Experiences:** features about individuals' experiences with the criminal justice system.
- **Culture:** latest in sport, media and the arts.
- **Health:** including exercise programs, mindfulness training and useful recipes.
- **Legal Corner:** legal content about your rights and opportunities.
- **Creative:** includes short-stories, poetry, creative non-fiction and art.



- **Mob:** dedicated to the unique experience of First Nations people and their interaction with the criminal justice system.
- **Reintegration:** educational content to assist readers preparing for the outside.
- **Play:** includes jokes, cartoons, puzzles and a monthly quiz.

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.

Recent changes to parole laws in Queensland

The *Corrective Services Act 2006* was recently changed to extend the time that the State Parole Board can make you wait to reapply for parole after receiving a parole refusal decision.

If your parole application is refused, the Parole Board will decide when you can reapply. They will make this decision at the same time as a parole refusal.

The maximum time frame the Parole Board can make you wait to reapply for parole following a refusal is now:

- **5 years** if serving a life sentence;
- **3 years** if serving 10 years imprisonment or more for a single offence; and
- **1 year** for all other prisoners.

In deciding how long you must wait before reapplying for parole, the Parole Board ***must*** now consider:

- the nature, seriousness and circumstances of each offence you are serving; and
- the reasons your parole application was refused.

In making this decision, the Board ***may*** also consider:

- the likely effect that a further parole application may have on an eligible person or victim; and
- the public interest.

Different timeframes may apply if you are serving sentences for federal offences or if you are subject to special provisions in the *Corrective Services Act 2006* about 'no body, no parole', 'restricted prisoners' and 'links to terrorism'.

Contacting PLS

PLS is an independent, non-profit community legal centre that helps people in prison in Queensland. PLS can provide free legal information, advice and representation about parole and prison issues/conditions, including parole refusals.

Because we are very small organisation, we cannot help everyone in prison who contacts us. However, all enquiries received will be reviewed by a PLS lawyer who will assess if we can help.

You can contact PLS:

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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