

## **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.

On 8 July 2020, in recognition of the current low rate of COVID-19 transmission within Queensland and the subsequent easing of community restrictions, and in consultation with Queensland Health, I revoked my previous decision dated 23 March 2020 to suspend all visitor access approvals for personal visitors to a corrective services facility pursuant to section 157 (1A) of the *Corrective Services Act 2006* (CS Act), effective on and from 10 July 2020.

Today, in light of the new cases of COVID-19 recorded in South East Queensland, the potential for community transmission of COVID-19 within those areas and in consultation with the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre and the Chief Health Officer, 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 approvals for the following corrective services facilities pursuant to section 157 (1A) of the CS Act:

- Maryborough
- Woodford
- Numinbah
- Brisbane
- Brisbane Women's
- Wolston
- Arthur Gorrie
- Helana Jones
- Borallon
- Southern Queensland
- Palen Creek Correctional Centres (Suspension Decision)

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 of 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 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;

2. 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;
3. 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
4. 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 8 July 2020.



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Peter Martin APM

Commissioner, Queensland Corrective Services

29 July 2020