

## DIRECTIONS WHILE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DATED 21 DECEMBER 2020 IS IN FORCE

### Sections 157(1A), 263, 264 and 268(4) of the *Corrective Services Act 2006*

On 21 December 2020, I, Peter Martin APM, Commissioner, Queensland Corrective Services (**QCS**), 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 for the period commencing on 1 January 2021 and expiring at 11:59pm on 31 March 2021 (the **Declaration**).

The Declaration was made following extensive consultation with the Chief Health Officer, Queensland Health and the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre 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 12 March 2021 a doctor working at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane tested positive to COVID-19. Following the diagnosis, Queensland Health placed the Princess Alexandra Hospital, in which the Princess Alexandra Hospital Secure Unit is located, into lockdown.

On 13 March 2021:

- Queensland Health:
  - requested that all of the **Greater Brisbane Queensland Corrective Services Facilities** implement restrictions on visitors to limit entry to facilities to only individuals who are essential to either the effective operation of the facility or the health, wellbeing or safety of the prisoners;
  - issued an alert calling for people in Queensland who had visited the **Named Locations** to be tested for COVID-19; and
  - announced that all non-essential visits to hospitals, residential aged care facilities and disability accommodation services in **Greater Brisbane** would cease from 12:00pm
- I made a decision pursuant to section 157(1A) of the *Corrective Services Act 2006* (**CS Act**) to suspend all visitor access approvals for personal visitors to any and all of the Greater Brisbane Queensland Corrective Services Facilities (the **Suspension Decision**). The Suspension Decision was to remain in effect until further notice, for a period of up to one year. In addition, I imposed restrictions on all visitor access to any of the Greater Brisbane Queensland Corrective Services Facilities.

Today, Queensland Health have advised me that, given the low level of community transmission of COVID-19, they have decided to ease the restrictions which were placed on visits to hospitals, residential aged care facilities and disability accommodation on 13 March 2021, effective from 12:00pm today. They have recommended QCS also ease the restrictions placed on visitors to the Greater Brisbane Queensland Corrective Services Facilities on 13 March 2021.

In light of the advice and recommendation received by Queensland Health, and recognising that the safety, welfare and human rights of prisoners and staff are paramount considerations for QCS, I direct as follows:

1. the Suspension Decision is revoked in its entirety;
2. any **Staff Member** who arrived in Queensland from New Zealand on or since 6 February 2021 who has not completed a quarantine period must:

- a. immediately inform their direct supervisor in writing and not attend at their place of work (whether that place is a corrective services facility or otherwise);
  - b. undergo a test for COVID-19; and
  - c. comply with all directions given by their direct supervisor and Queensland Health in relation to their COVID-19 test and any self-isolation or quarantine requirements;
3. any person who is not a Staff Member and who has arrived in Queensland from New Zealand on or since 6 February 2021 who has not completed a quarantine period, must provide evidence that they have been tested for COVID-19 and cleared by Queensland Health before entering a corrective services facility;
4. the wearing of face masks as approved personal protective equipment is mandatory for all Staff Member and visitors to any corrective services facility, including when transporting a prisoner, in circumstances where social distancing is not possible, or otherwise as directed by Queensland Health personnel;
5. the wearing of face masks as approved personal protective equipment is mandatory for all prisoners who have COVID-19 symptoms, as determined by Queensland Health personnel, when they are required to leave their cells including whilst being transported outside a corrective services facility;
6. the following QCS policies will apply to all corrective services facilities:
  - a. 'Managing new admission reception prisoners and COVID-19 isolation';
  - b. 'Managing Employee Health Risks to COVID-19'; and
  - c. 'Managing Vulnerable Prisoners';
7. for the purposes of these directions:
  - a. **Staff Member** has the meaning given in the CS Act;
  - b. A reference to the **Greater Brisbane Corrective Services Facilities** includes the following corrective services facilities:
    - Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre;
    - Borallon Training and Correctional Centre;
    - Brisbane Correctional Centre;
    - Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre;
    - Wolston Correctional Centre;
    - Helena Jones Correctional Centre;
    - Southern Queensland Correctional Centre;
    - Palen Creek Correctional Centre;
    - Numinbah Correctional Centre;
    - Woodford Correctional Centre; and
    - Princess Alexandra Hospital Secure Unit.
  - c. a reference to **Greater Brisbane** includes the following Local Government Areas: City of Brisbane, City of Ipswich, Logan City, Moreton Bay Region and Redland City; and
  - d. each of the following places, provided a person was there during the

stipulated time, is a **Named Location**:

<u>Place</u>	<u>Time period</u>
Morning After Café, cnr Vulture Street and Cambridge Street, West End	Thursday 11 March 2021, 2pm-3:15pm
Corporate Box Gym, East Brisbane, 368A Logan Road, Greenslopes	Thursday 11 March 2021, 5:45pm – 7pm
Stones Corner Hotel, 346 Logan Road, Stones Corner	Thursday 11 March 2021, 6:30pm -7:45pm

These directions are made pursuant to sections 263(2), 264 and 268(4) of CS Act. They have been made in consultation with Queensland Health, the Chief Health Officer and the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre 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, and the medical advice received, 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 will take effect from 12:00pm today, 19 March 2021, revoking and replacing the previous directions made by me pursuant to sections 263(2) and 268(4) of the CS Act on 13 March 2021. These directions will remain in place until revoked or replaced by me.



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Peter Martin APM

Commissioner, Queensland Corrective Services

19 March 2021