

DIRECTIONS WHILE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY DATED 4 SEPTEMBER 2020 IS IN FORCE

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

On 4 September 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 for the period commencing on 7 September 2020 and expiring at 11:59pm on 2 October 2020 (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 3 September 2020, I made a decision pursuant to section 157(1A) of the *Corrective Services Act 2006 (CSA)*, and effective at 12:00am on 4 September 2020, to suspend all visitor access approvals for personal visitors to all corrective services facilities (the **3 September 2020 Personal Visit Suspension Decision**). That decision remains in place until further notice, for a period of one year from 3 September 2020.

On 4 September 2020, following the making of the Declaration and pursuant to sections 263(2), 264 and 268(4) of the CSA, and following discussions with Queensland Health and the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre, I made a number of directions to facilitate the security and management of all corrective services facilities and to ensure the safety and welfare of all prisoners, staff and visitors. Due to ongoing quarantining and testing of staff and prisoners of Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre for COVID-19, those directions included the categorisation of Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre as a Stage 4 corrective services facility, with the suspension of activities, and withdrawal of prisoner privileges, unless approved by me.

Today, based on negative COVID-19 test results for staff and prisoners at Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre and the end of their quarantine period, and following further discussions with, and advice from, the Chief Health Officer and the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre, I direct as follows:

1. In addition to the suspension of access approvals for personal visitors under the 3 September 2020 Personal Visit Suspension Decision, all visitor access to a **Stage 3 corrective services facility** is prohibited other than access by:
 - a. an accredited visitor where access is approved by me;
 - b. a government visitor where access is approved by me;
 - c. a casual site visitor where access is approved by me;
 - d. a law enforcement visitor;
 - e. an emergency services officer;
 - f. a professional visitor whose attendance is necessary to perform health duties or provide psychological care and access is approved by me;
 - g. a commercial visitor whose attendance is necessary to perform essential maintenance or delivery of essential goods and services and access is approved by me;
 - h. elders, respected persons and spiritual healers, where access is approved by me; and
 - i. religious visitors, where access is approved by me.
2. the wearing of face masks as approved personal protective equipment is mandatory for QCS staff or approved visitors to any Stage 3 corrective services facility, the Queensland Corrective Services Academy (**Academy**) or Escort and Security Branch (**ESB**);

3. the wearing of face masks as approved personal protective equipment is mandatory for all prisoners while being transported by the ESB or as otherwise directed by Queensland Health personnel;
4. the following QCS policies will apply to all corrective services facilities:
 - a. the 'Managing Prisoner Reception' policy (including 14-day isolation of new admissions under that policy);
 - b. the 'Managing Employee Health Risks to COVID-19' policy;
 - c. the 'Managing Vulnerable Prisoners' policy;
5. for the purposes of these directions:
 - a. Each of the following is a **Stage 3 corrective services facility**:
 - Borallon Training and Correctional Centre;
 - Brisbane Correctional Centre;
 - Wolston Correctional Centre;
 - Helena Jones Correctional Centre;
 - Southern Queensland Correctional Centre;
 - Palen Creek Correctional Centre;
 - Numinbah Correctional Centre;
 - Woodford Correctional Centre;
 - Maryborough Correctional Centre;
 - Princess Alexandra Hospital Secure Unit;
 - Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre.

These directions are made pursuant to sections 263(2), 264 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 take effect from 12:01 am on 13 September 2020, revoking and replacing the previous directions made by me pursuant to sections 263(2) and 268(4) of the CS Act on 4 September 2020. These directions will remain in place until revoked or replaced by me.



Peter Martin APM

Commissioner, Queensland Corrective Services

11 September 2020