



Women's Advisory Council
Corrective Services NSW

Report

December 2008- December 2010



Dear Commissioner

I am pleased to present this report of the CSNSW Women's Advisory Council which sets out the work undertaken in the first term of the Women's Advisory Council from December 2008 to December 2010. There have been some changes in membership when women have resigned to take up other positions locally or interstate but the work plan developed in our first meetings remains the focus of our plan to benefit women who become embroiled in the criminal justice system in NSW.

I would particularly draw your attention to the focus on Aboriginal women's issues. We continue to consider the well being of children of convicted mothers as mothers in prison present special needs which must be included in our advocacy and planning.

The range of meetings to consider the health, (including mental health), housing, financial and legal issues affecting women shows the extent to which we are endeavouring to pursue the terms of reference which you presented to us.

Thank you for allowing us to work with you and your department to improve programs for women offenders in NSW.



Ann Symonds
Chair

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Background

Establishment of a Women's Council for Corrective Services NSW was a recommendation of the 1985 Report of the NSW Women in Prison Task Force, *Women in Prison*. The purpose of the Council was to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Task Force recommendations. Recommendations that were implemented included the establishment of a Women's Services Unit to oversee the implementation process. A Mothers and Children's residential program was established, purpose-designed cottages were constructed at Emu Plains and the Parramatta Transitional Centre was established in 1996.

Successive women's advisory committees and networks have focused on raising issues in relation to women in custody. The current Advisory Council provides an opportunity for sharing of information among government departments and community organisations which have interests in the well-being of women who are serving a custodial sentence or are under community supervision. The Council is a link between Corrective Services NSW and other government departments and agencies with a mandate to develop and administer policies and services to women in general and women with specific needs; a mechanism for drawing attention to significant issues that relate to women in the criminal justice system.

This report outlines the work of the Women's Advisory Council that commenced in December 2008. The term of the previous Council had lapsed approximately eighteen months beforehand and this Council was formed with all new membership.

Membership

The report covers the work of the Women's Advisory Council that was appointed by the Commissioner in December 2008. Membership was invited from women representing key areas of relevance to women in custody and under Corrective Services NSW supervision in the community. Ann Symonds, patron of SHINE For Kids, patron Mothers and Children's Program, accepted the role of Chair. See Appendix A for a list of Council members.

A Women's Consultants Group was also established, consisting of representatives of services and organisations with direct contact with women offenders and/or their issues. The purpose of this group is to complement the Women's Advisory Council's strategic focus and provide information and insight from direct experience. Membership of the Consultants Group is flexible; additional members are invited to join the group at any time in relation to specific issues. See Appendix B for a list of Consultants Group members.

Terms of Reference

When the current Women's Advisory Council was appointed its terms of reference were expanded to include women supervised in the community by Corrective Services NSW and for the Council to have a focus on external issues impacting in the criminal justice

system. This shift in focus aimed to fill a gap that had hitherto not been given adequate attention. A number of agencies including NSW Ombudsman, Anti-Discrimination Board, and ICAC are directly accessible by inmates and provide a monitoring role for correctional centres and CSNSW practice. The Correctional Centre Support Line provides assistance when inmates have had difficulty resolving issues or getting access to information.

See Appendix C for the Women's Advisory Council Terms of Reference.

Meetings

The Council met on a monthly basis between December 2008 and April 2010. Once the Council was through its establishment phase and had a number of projects, initiatives and working groups underway, the Council moved to meet bi monthly Meetings were held in Henry Deane Building apart from three held at correctional facilities, Silverwater Women's, Long Bay Complex and the John Morony Complex. The latter was followed by a meeting with the Dillwynia Inmate Development Committee.

Women's Advisory Council Plan

The underlying goals of the Council's Work Plan are to work towards fewer women in custody and for better outcomes for women in the correctional system. Key result areas for the Plan are:

- reducing incarceration
- increasing health and well-being of women
- post-release services
- changing community attitudes.

Women, Crime, Custody and Beyond Conference 2009

To strengthen the Council's Work Plan, a conference was initiated with the University of Sydney's Institute of Criminology. It was held at the University of Sydney in November 2009, jointly sponsored by the Institute of Criminology and Corrective Services NSW. A DVD of the forty-two presentations was produced and is available through the Corrective Services Academy Library.

The conference aim was to raise issues relating to women in custody or on community sanctions and to propose solutions. The day was structured according to an offender's pathway through the correctional system:

- first contact
- sentencing and appeals
- custodial experience
- post custody.

Issues included arrest of women with dependent children, access to accommodation, legal issues and women's understanding details at sentencing, access to support services particularly community-based and post-release support. Speakers included Justice Lucy McCallum NSW Supreme Court, the Hon James Wood NSW Sentencing Council, Jennifer Mason Director General Human Services NSW, women inmates from Emu

Plains and Dillwynia Correctional Centres, Commander Helen Begg NSW Police Force, Professor Eileen Baldry UNSW. For a full list of speakers see Appendix D.

From findings of the day, the Council augmented its Work Plan to encompass issues and possible solutions. A summary follows.

Work Plan Summary

Reducing incarceration

- NSW Police Force – arrest practices, assistance available – re children/property, granting of bail.
Women & Policing Conference Hobart 2011 paper to be delivered at August 2011 conference.
- Social Security convictions – high conviction rate for Centrelink fraud has resulted in increasing numbers of women entering custody, particularly elderly women and those with children.
- Information gaps at court and reception – women in custody have indicated that many are unsure of the details of their sentences, particularly experienced by those attending court via video link.
- ‘Exceptional circumstances’ use by magistrates at sentencing. In agreeing to pursue the consideration of “exceptional circumstances” at sentencing, the Council is actively advocating the implementation of the Fernando principles as set out by Justice James Wood.
- Women’s housing particularly rehabilitation centres and other types of support for women with children and for women on methadone with children – as alternative to custody and post-release option.

Increasing health & well-being of women

- Addressing the impact of experience of child/adulthood sexual assault
 - research project initiated with the Australian Centre for Study of Sexual Assault (ACSSA) to research possible links between histories of experience of sexual trauma in child- and adulthood, impact of histories on women’s capacity to benefit from offence-related programs that help them remain in the community once released; current best practice in addressing histories of trauma, by whom and when. See further details below.
 - Victims’ Services trial of counselling in two correctional centres for women and men who have histories of experience of assault and trauma; referral protocols have been developed
 - Training packages for CSNSW staff on a trauma-informed approach to working with women are in development with Education Centre Against

Violence (ECAV). Training will include how to respond to disclosures of experience of sexual assault.

- Medicare & PBS access by women in custody - clarification of prisoner access status has been received. Services unable to be delivered by Justice Health or CSNSW can be considered, for example, smoking cessation: 80% of women in custody smoke; 74% of whom would like to quit. Patches and other aids are to be covered by PBS in 2011.
- Increasing telephone contact between women and children – capacity for Video Visits is being monitored by the Council in relation to contact between children and their mothers in custody.

Post-release services

- UNSW study on Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women's access to post-release housing produced March 2009 Research Summary *Housing Needs of Prisoners*. A new edition of *Questions and Answers about Social Housing for people in prison or on Community Orders* was produced and distributed. WAC Housing Working Group to facilitate a meeting of women's housing providers to identify issues for refusal of service to women exiting custody, to identify gaps in services and support, to share information and resources, to identify possible funding sources for example under the Commonwealth Government's National Quality Framework.
- Link-Up Support Worker for women – funding was sought for a Link-Up NSW Aboriginal Corporation worker to assist Aboriginal women in custody who were separated from families as children. Funding for a .5 worker was received, for a 12 month period.
- Aboriginal women's access to income/employment – joint forum held with Centrelink in November 2010 in response to short report on UNSW joint research project. CSNSW developing strategy for addressing employment-related needs of Aboriginal women in custody and possible changes to current arrangements in relation to Job Services Australia assessments and services. Centrelink have changed their national training to reflect the needs of Aboriginal women raised in the report.

Changing community attitudes

- Meetings with women parliamentarians were held in 2009 and 2010, raising issues in relation to women in custody. Further meetings are planned for 2011.
- Discrimination against women offenders by non-government support services – joint training developed by Mental Health Coordinating Council and Community Restorative Centre on working with and understanding this client group.

- Foster carers and visits to correctional centres - resistance by some foster carers prevents children from seeing their mothers; issue taken up with Foster Carers Australia.

Publications

The *Women, Crime, Custody and Beyond Conference 2009* also led to the development of a special issue of Sydney University's Journal of the Institute of Criminology, *Critical Issues in Criminal Justice* Volume 22 Number 2 November 2010 Issue on Beyond Prison: Women, Incarceration and Justice. The publication featured international comments on practices affecting and impacting on women in the criminal justice system.

Research

Histories of sexual trauma among women offenders

In 2010 the WAC with financial support from CSNSW commissioned research from the Institute of Family Studies Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault. The aims of the research project are to determine the impact of experience of sexual trauma in childhood and adulthood on offending of women and the influence of this experience on women's capacity to fully participate and benefit from programs that have evidence of reducing re-offending.

A further aim of the research is to identify specific actions that can be taken to address the impact of trauma and assist women to overcome the effects of this trauma by accessing suitable programs and services.

The underlying aims of the project are to support Corrective Services NSW's responsibility for managing offenders in a safe and humane manner and, under the State Plan, to reduce risks of reoffending. Identifying and addressing underlying causes of offending among women may impact positively on women's capacity to cope and remain in the community, following their release.

Factors considered include:

- role of victimisation on women's offending pathways
- current services/support available to women in other correctional systems that address their victimisation (scanning national and international jurisdictions)
- best stage/s in an offender's pathway most appropriate for participation in treatment/support
- providers of treatment/services
- site/environment of intervention.

Aboriginal women's access to income support - UNSW study *Money Matters: Narratives of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women inmates in NSW about their Access to Income in the Community* report produced in June 2010 following up a finding of the Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council 2002 report *Speak Out Speak Strong*. The UNSW report led to changes in Centrelink's training for staff in all states and territories and a joint forum with Centrelink and Corrective Services Industries in November 2010 that resulted in an action plan

Trends in incarceration – anecdotal evidence indicates that there has been an increase in numbers of first-time offenders whose first contact with the criminal justice system has resulted in a custodial sentence. A further issue is the high number of remandees who are released at sentencing. Data around these trends has been requested.

Presentations by and to Council members

Women, Custody and Beyond Conference with the Sydney University Institute of Criminology November 2009 & DVD

Presentations by Council members

- House of Representatives Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs – Aboriginal juveniles & young adults in criminal justice (2010) – Mandy Young and Kath McFarlane
- ATSI Committee Roundtable on Indigenous over-rep in the criminal justice system(2011) – Kath McFarlane
- Senate Inquiry Hearings into suicide – Jenna Bateman
- NSW Law Reform Commission Inquiry into Penalty Notices– Kath McFarlane

Presentations to Council members

Luke Grant Assistant Commissioner Offender Services and Programs - overview of women offenders

Assoc. Professor Juliet Richters UNSW School of Public health and Community Medicine - sexual health and activity among women in custody

Hugh Macken, President of the Law Society - reducing prison populations

Dr Eileen Baldry UNSW - cognitive disability and mental health research project

Dr Astrid Birgden CSNSW - 'Good Lives' model

Dr Devon Indig Head of Research Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice - findings of Inmate Health Survey 2009

Commissioner Ron Woodham - initiatives in the management of women offenders

Narci Sutton Senior Specialist Psychologist - CSNSW proposal for women's program at Norma Parker Centre

Dr Sandra Sunjic Strategic Manager Drugs and Alcohol- post-release care planning services Justice Health

Michelle Ring Program Development Officer Offender Programs Unit CSNSW - program to address debt and related issues

Sally Trevena FAHCSIA - National Social Housing and Homelessness Initiatives

Jenna Bateman - current developments in mental health

Luke Grant Assistant Commissioner Offender Services and Programs - programs and research

Carlene York Assistant Commissioner Northern Region NSW Police Force – women and policing

Fatima Ali, Social Inclusion Manager, Australian Red Cross – programs for young mothers

Kath McFarlane - update re fines and penalty notices and debt issues affecting those in the criminal justice system (following on NSW Sentencing Council's 2007 report)

Submissions

The following is a list of submissions made by the WAC:

NSW Sentencing Council on proposed changes to s21A Crimes (Sentencing Procedures) Act 1999 concerning alcohol-related violent offences

NSW Law Reform Commission's reference on Penalty Notices. Oral evidence was also given by a WAC member

ATSIA Committee Roundtable on Indigenous over-rep in the criminal justice system. Oral evidence was also given by a WAC member

NSW Department of Justice and Attorney General's Criminal Law Review Division - re the Bail Act Exposure Bill

Correspondence

An extensive list of correspondence by the Council's Chair is at Appendix E.

Appendix A

Corrective Services NSW Women's Advisory Council Members December 2008- December 2010	
Jenna Bateman	Chief Executive Officer Mental Health Coordinating Council
Robin Banks	Chief Executive Officer Public Interest Advocacy Centre Resigned in July 2010 to accept position as Anti Discrimination Commissioner Tasmania
Monique Hitter	Director Civil Law Legal Aid Commission
Helen L'Orange	Past Child Advocate Mothers & Children's Program
Katherine McFarlane	Lecturer, Justice Studies / Criminology School of Humanities Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences Charles Sturt University Past Official Visitor Silverwater Past Executive Officer NSW Children's Court ; past Executive Officer NSW Sentencing Council
Christine Robinson	Co-ordinator Aboriginal Women's Legal Service Appointed in January 2010
Alex Shehadie	A/Assistant Director Program Delivery Unit Department of Premier and Cabinet Appointed in June 2010
Ann Symonds	Chair Women's Advisory Council Patron Mothers and Children's Program Patron SHINE For Kids Past Patron Guthrie House Past member MLC NSW Parliament and Deputy Chair Women in Prison Task Force
Sally Trevena	Assistant Manager

Corrective Services NSW Women's Advisory Council Members December 2008- December 2010	
	Housing and Homelessness Section NSW/ACT Office Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Family, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
Nicole Watson	Research Fellow Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning UTS Resigned in December 2009 to take up sabbatical and other studies in Brisbane
Mandy Young	A/Director Victims Services Department of Justice and Attorney General

Corrective Services NSW Members	
Karen Boyko	General Manager Emu Plains and Berrima Cluster Resigned to take extended leave DATE?
Rosemary Caruana	Assistant Commissioner Community Offender Services Appointed in February 2010
Luke Grant	Assistant Commissioner Offender Services & Programs
Deirdre Hyslop	Executive Officer to the Council Principal Advisor Women Offenders Offender Services and Programs
Marilyn Wright	General Manager John Morony & Oberon Cluster

Attachment B

Corrective Services NSW Women's Consultants Group December 2008 – December 2010	
Deborah Allen (resigned April 2010)	Manager Guthrie House
Rebecca Smith (appointed July 2010)	
Heather Baker	Service Director Women's Health Justice Health
Samantha Edmonds	Deputy Director NCOSS Policy and Communications
Dianne Hamey	Supervising Solicitor Women's Legal Services NSW Women's Domestic Violence Advocacy Service
Michelle Knight	Yulawirri Nurai Morisset NSW 2264
Jonine Penrose-Wall	UNSW – previous Chair
Cathy Saunders	Women's Support Worker Community Restorative Centre (CRC)
Vavaa Mawuli	Principal Solicitor Public Interest Advocacy Centre

Appendix C

Women's Advisory Council Terms of Reference

Role

The role of the Women's Advisory Council is to provide advice and advocacy on issues relevant to women in the criminal justice system. This has a dual internal and external focus.

Objectives

The Women's Advisory Council is appointed to provide:

- an opportunity for sharing of information among government departments and community organisations which have interests in the well-being of women who are serving a custodial sentence or are under community supervision;
- a link between the NSW Department of Corrective Services and other government departments with a mandate to develop and administer policies and services to women in general and women with specific needs;
- a mechanism for drawing attention to significant issues that relate to women in the criminal justice system.

Membership

Members are chosen on the basis of their expertise in key issues that relate to women offenders such as health, social welfare, indigenous and legal issues.

Members of the Women's Advisory Council are appointed by the Commissioner for Corrective Services for a period of two years.

Members of the Women's Advisory Council (the Council) include:

- representation of relevant community organisations
- a member of Corrective Services NSW staff engaged in the management and/or supervision of women offenders
- representation of health and legal services.

In appointing members to the Council, the Commissioner ensures the interests of Aboriginal women and women from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds are taken into consideration.

Members of the Council are bound by a code of conduct and ethics.

The Assistant Commissioner Offender Services and Programs is an ex-officio member of the Council. The Principal Advisor Women Offenders is the Council's Executive Officer.

Meetings

The Council meets at least quarterly and is chaired by a member nominated by the Council members. Where possible, members who cannot attend a meeting are asked to give advanced notification of their absence. Members who do not attend three consecutive meetings are deemed to have resigned from the Council unless reasons for their extended absence are provided.

The Council develops a plan of action to determine its focus for the next twelve months. This plan, including a proposed meeting schedule, is submitted to the Commissioner for consideration.

Council meetings will generally take place at the Henry Deane Building 20 Lee Street Sydney. Meetings may also be held at one of the correctional centres for women.

The Council may decide from time to time to establish sub-committees or working groups in relation to projects undertaken by the Council.

Appendix D

Women, Crime, Custody and Beyond Conference Sydney Institute of Criminology & Corrective Services NSW Monday 16 November 2009

Chair: Professor Julie Stubbs University of Sydney Institute of Criminology

Session	Speakers
Welcome to Country	Millie Ingram, <i>Wyanga Aboriginal AgedCare</i>
Keynote speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justice Lucy McCallum, <i>NSW Supreme Court</i>
1. First contact with the CJS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The impact of arrest and detention on women's lives 	Chair: Prof Chris Cunneen, <i>UNSW</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jennifer Mason, <i>DG Human Services NSW</i> Gerry Moore, <i>Aboriginal Legal Service</i> Rosemary Caruana, <i>CS NSW</i> Brian Sandland <i>Legal Aid</i> John Murray <i>Positive Justice Centre</i> Commander Helen Begg <i>NSW Police Force</i>
2. Sentencing & Appeals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentencing options available for women (and barriers) Community alternatives 	Chair: Dr Don Weatherburn, <i>BOCSAR</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. James Wood, <i>NSW Sentencing Council</i> Chief Magistrate, Hon Graeme Henson Alan Kirkland, <i>CEO Legal Aid</i> Hugh Donnelly, <i>Judicial Commission</i>
3. The custodial experience – Part 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining Community & family Connections Services & legal needs 	Chair: Kath McFarlane <i>EO Children's Court</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prof. Catherine Fowler, <i>UTS</i> Marilyn Wright, <i>GM John Morony Correctional Centre CS NSW</i> Leeann Turley, <i>Shine for Kids</i> Glendra Stubbs <i>Link up</i> Robin Banks <i>NLAF</i> Jane Woodruff <i>Burnside</i>
4. The custodial experience – Part 2	Chair: A/Prof Eileen Baldry, <i>UNSW</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offender programs • AOD, Health and Mental health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Deborah Zador <i>Justice Health</i> • Karen Lines <i>Justice Health</i> • Sue Henry-Edwards <i>CS NSW</i> • Rhonda Booby <i>CS NSW</i> • Lydia Brown <i>CRC</i>
<p>5. Post custody</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for release • Multiple and complex needs • Housing • Parole • Mentoring 	<p>Chair: Prof Chris Cunneen, <i>UNSW</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Pike, <i>Parole</i> • Alison Churchill, <i>CRC</i> • Melissa Gibson & Kelly-Anne Stewart, <i>Housing NSW</i> • Sue Cripps, <i>Homelessness NSW</i> • Kat Armstrong, <i>WIPAN</i> • Eileen Baldry <i>UNSW</i>
<p>6. Summing up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Themes • Conclusions • Actions 	<p>Chair: Prof Julie Stubbs, <i>USyd</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Baker, <i>Justice Health</i> • Alan Kirkland, <i>Legal Aid</i> • Chris Cunneen, <i>UNSW</i> • Ann Symonds <i>WAC</i> • Julie Perkins <i>ALS</i>
<p>Conference closing</p>	<p>Chair: Ann Symonds <i>WAC</i></p> <p>Luke Grant <i>CS NSW</i></p>

Appendix E

Correspondence from the Chair

Date	Outgoing
19/3/2009	Tanya Plibersek Minister for Women on Medicare requesting acknowledgement that prisoners retain their Medicare & PBS status
13/4/2010	Paul Lynch Minister Aboriginal Affairs re Link Up female caseworker for Aboriginal women in custody
3/5/2010	Christopher Craige SC. D.P.P data/statistics on prosecutions for Social Security fraud
20/5/2010	John Hatzistergos NSW Attorney General requesting expansion of Circle Sentencing
20/5/2010	Barbara Perry Minister for Mental Health requesting increase in Mental Health Nurse positions. No response – letter has been forwarded to Karen Lines Director Justice Health
4/6/2010	Nicola Roxon Minister Health on Medicare, outlining the need for recognition of Medicare status of women in prison
21/6/2010	Acknowledgement from Minister Roxon's Office
23/6/2010	Phillip Costa Minister for Corrective Services – funds for Link-Up female caseworker for Aboriginal women in custody
16/8/2010	Virginia Hart Mental Health confirming that the Chair, while supporting Justice Health, will continue to seek further advice from the commonwealth for services to seriously mentally disordered female prisoners.
16/8/2010	Mr Carter Director Public Prosecutions Office responding to request on numbers of women's prosecutions for Social Security fraud, with general numbers i.e. not gender disaggregated data as requested
8/9/10 30/10/10	John Hatzistergos NSW Attorney general requesting implementation of Fernando Principles Copies to Linda Burney Minister for Community Services and Jodie McKay Minister for Women
30/10/2010	Robert McClelland Attorney General re D.P.P Social Security fraud data
30/10/2010	Commissioner Ron Woodham on positive response from Minister Costa concerning Link-Up female caseworker position and requesting establishment of formal referral process for Aboriginal women

30/10/2010	Linda Burney Minister Community Services requesting information about funding for Foster Care NSW plus copy of AG's Fernando Principles request
31/10/2010	John Hatzistergos NSW Attorney General re Circle Sentencing and support for increases – second letter
29/11/2010	Ron Woodham Commissioner suggesting CSNSW request a Sentencing Council study on the impact of parental imprisonment on children
	Carlene York Assistant Commissioner NSW Police Force request to meet re collaborative work on women offenders

Correspondence to the Chair

Date	Incoming
5/5/2009	Tanya Plibersek on Medicare advice "that prisoners are in fact eligible for Medicare & PBS and do not lose their entitlement when they enter prison".
12/6/2009	Jenny Campain Director Medicare Eligibility for Minister Roxon, in relation to above, the Health Insurance Act 1973 subsection 19(2) to prevent a medical service being funded twice from public resources
7/8/2009	Jody Broun Director General Aboriginal Affairs copy from Commissioner re Aboriginal Women's Programs
2/12/2009	Carmel Tebbutt Minister for Health response to Question on Notice about staffing of new Forensic Hospital
6/4/2010	Jenny Campain Director Medicare Eligibility –the Minister indicates her willingness to consider the matter further. Request for new information
14/4/2010	Carmel Tebbutt Minister for Health re sexual assault services for women in custody – advice on Justice Health's responsibilities to women prisoners and including "24 hour access to counselling"
15/6/2010	James Carter Deputy Director Public Prosecutions data on Social Security fraud and women – provision of general statistics
21/6/2010	Nicola Roxon Minister for Health (Cwth) acknowledgement and referral of WAC letter to her Department for response
23/6/2010	Phillip Costa Minister for Corrective Services positive response to WAC request for a Link-Up female caseworker: funding provided for .5 position
14/7/2010	Virginia Hart Mental Health- information about the new Hospitals and Health reform package Medicare

2/8/2010	Carmel Tebbutt Minister for Health on Medicare and advice that “Justice Health is seeking to gain access to Medicare for prisoners...and be involved in the national reform agenda program.”
2/9/2010	Paul Lynch Minister Aboriginal Affairs positive response to request for female caseworker for Link-Up. Expression of support to Corrective Services NSW
3/9/2010	Lana Racie Mental Health Medicare response to letter to Virginia Hart referring Chair to the incoming federal government for further advice
8/9/2010	John Hatzistergos NSW Attorney General - Fernando Principles – advice that consideration of ‘exceptional circumstances’ will be taken into account when sentencing – hardship to families is “generally irrelevant”
19/10/2010	Linda Burney Minister Community Services acknowledgement of Foster Care NSW situation followed by Annette Gallard Chief Executive Community Services explanation of new funding arrangements for national Foster Carers Association
27/10/2010	Phillip Costa Minister for Corrective Services response to ‘exceptional circumstances’ in sentencing. “Judicial officers do take into account the circumstances of offenders.”
7/12/10	Lauren Judge NSW Law Reform Commission Thanks for submission re Penalty Notices