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Chinese Prison Bosses Ask Australia for Help

The top 24 representatives of the Bureau of Prison Administration of the People's Republic of China met with Justice Action for one hour to hear the views of Australian prisoners. A video recording of the meeting can be viewed [here](#).

Earlier the representatives had the opportunity to visit Silverwater and Long Bay prisons and receive a briefing from Corrective Services NSW.

Justice Action presented the benefits of social support and access to communication via computers in cells, amidst a spirited series of questions from Chinese officials. The Women's Justice Network presented its experience of mentoring and the problems faced by women prisoners.

Huang Lanzheng, the Director-General of the Bureau of Prison Administration, said he respected Justice Action's work. He particularly appreciated their influence on criminal justice policy reform.

"We still have something to learn from you... Three things we can still learn from you are the protection of prisoners after release, reduce isolation and restorative justice," said Director-General of the Bureau of Prison Administration Huang Lanzheng.

Huang Lanzheng felt comfortable talking directly with Justice Action, and appreciated the benefit of their experience. As they clapped and shook hands, China agreed to work with Justice Action in the future on the issues of mentoring, use of technology to lessen isolation and the formation of NGO support.

Justice Action has an agreement for a continuing relationship, with a view to visit Chinese prisons with Chinese-speaking Australian members of the Justice Action team and to work together in the future on the issues of mentoring, use of technology to lessen isolation and the formation of NGO support.