



New South Wales
Minister for Justice

10 JUN 2008

D08/065940
AG08/02296

Ms Clover Moore MP
Member for Sydney
58 Oxford Street
PADDINGTON NSW 2021

05 JUN 2008

COPY

Dear Ms Moore

I refer to your letter dated 31 March 2008 regarding the lockdown periods for inmates at the new Long Bay Prison Hospital.

I can advise that the Long Bay Prison Hospital Project consists of the construction of two new hospitals in the Long Bay Correctional Complex, namely the Forensic Hospital, which is owned and operated by Justice Health, to accommodate forensic inmates detained under the *Mental Health (Criminal Procedure) Act 1990*, and the Prison Hospital, which will be operated by the Department of Corrective Services with clinical services provided by Justice Health.

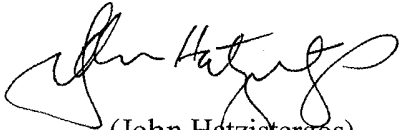
In the staffing model for the new Prison Hospital, inmates will be out of their cells from 8am to 4pm each day with a half-hour lock-in period at lunchtime. I can advise that a similar model is operating in pods 19 and 20 of the Mental Health Screening Unit at the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre (MRRC). The Commissioner of Corrective Services has advised me that since the introduction of out-of-cell hours from 8:00am to 4:00pm in pods 19 and 20 of the MRRC, there has been a marked reduction in serious incidents. A review of the first six weeks of the new routine shows a reduction in serious incidents when compared to the same period last year. In addition, the reduction in out-of-cell hours frees up staff, providing an increased staff presence for greater supervision and care of inmates. The available evidence relating to the number of out-of-cell hours would suggest, therefore, that the new system does not compromise the level of health care provided to inmates.

The new staffing model for Long Bay Hospital will ensure that there is sufficient custodial staff to facilitate access to inmates by Justice Health staff as required over the 24-hour period. Under the new model, health staff will have direct access to inmates to enable the provision

of treatment as required. The Department also operates Acute Crisis Management Units for offenders who are at risk of self-harm and has stringent and intensive risk intervention procedures to ensure that any inmates who may be at risk of self-harm or suicide are managed appropriately and expeditiously.

I trust that the information provided is of assistance.

Yours faithfully



(John Hatzistergos)