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TRUCKLOAD OF COMPUTERS FOR PRISONERS

The Australian Prisoners Union in conjunction with Justice Action and other community groups will deliver a truckload of computers to Bob Debus, Minister for Corrective Services at NSW Parliament House at 1pm today.

Over 100 computers have been donated from corporations and community groups to be installed into maximum security pods/wings in NSW. The 'Computer Project', auspiced by Justice Action and the Australian Prisoners Union, sees access to modern technology as vital to the basic right of prisoners to education, legal defence and training.

"Unconvicted prisoners at the MRRC Silverwater have only an hour a week to access computers. Library staff do not regularly assist prisoners in obtaining information yet Mr Debus has claimed that computers are already easily accessed by prisoners. This shows how out of touch he is with the facts and the attitude entrenched throughout Corrective Services." said Ian MacDougall of the Australian Prisoners Union.

"We will be at Parliament House delivering the computers to demonstrate the goodwill of the community towards prisoner education, and highlight the government's unacceptable policy of dehumanising citizens and hiding them away from community support." said Kilty O'Gorman, a spokesperson for Justice Action.

"NSW Corrective Services should be renamed NSW Corruptive Services for the damage it is doing, whilst taking almost half a billion dollars away from health and education." said Brett Collins of Justice Action.

"There is no valid reason to reject a computer. To do so only serves to further alienate an already alienated section of society - prisoners. The Minister and Department have no problem with a TV in each cell, so how can they justify rejecting free computers?" said Kilty O'Gorman of Justice Action.

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