



Justice  
Corrective Services

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MLU16/00013

14 January 2016

Ms Emma Gambino  
Justice Action  
PO Box 386  
BROADWAY NSW 2007

Dear Ms Gambino

I refer to your letter dated 14 December 2015 to the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Corrections, about your proposal to introduce online counselling services in correctional facilities. Your letter was referred to Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) for response.

I appreciate your desire to help inmates cope with their incarceration through counselling. However, CSNSW considers an online counselling service would not be appropriate without adequate support and engagement with mental health staff.

Mental health support is currently provided to inmates through mental health services including the Mental Health Screening Unit, step-down units and the Long Bay Hospital, and under the direct medical supervision of Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network staff.

CSNSW strongly believes that involvement of mental health staff in counselling is the only means of intervention which can ensure the safety and wellbeing of inmates with serious mental illness.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Grant".

LUKE GRANT  
ACTING COMMISSIONER