

**Doug Orr**

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**From:** Ja Team <justiceaction.team@gmail.com> on behalf of Justice Action <justiceactionteam@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 23 March 2016 4:56 PM  
**To:** Doug Orr  
**Cc:** Brett Collins  
**Subject:** Prisoners' Enrolment to Vote

Dear Electoral Officer Orr,

We have been in correspondence with the NSW Electoral Commission since May last year with proposals to ensure that the necessary procedures are being introduced and followed to ensure people in prisons and locked hospitals are able to vote as they are entitled. We represent those people (see our website <http://justiceaction.org.au/>).

In our previous correspondence with NSW Commissioner Colin Barry, he indicated that information on prisoner enrolment is provided by Corrective Services to the State Office of the AEC.

*Special cat*  
Currently, the postal vote is not adapted to the unique situation of people in prisons and locked hospitals, as their residential address (the prison/hospital) is not the address used for their voting registration. The legal requirement is that people must notify the Electoral Commission of a change of address within 21 days, but prisoners are not contactable at their electoral address. Our proposal to the AEC is to update all prisoners, whether on remand or sentenced, with postal voter status upon reception into correctional facilities. *3/0*

It is important that people in prisons or hospitals under state control are given this special opportunity to ensure full compliance with the law, and feel socially included despite being physically excluded. This should include access to the necessary information from political parties. Currently, our newspaper JUST US is the only way in which political parties can communicate directly with electors in prisons and locked hospitals.

We propose that the AEC ask Corrective Services for all incoming prisoner details in order for the prisoner to receive postal voter status if already enrolled. Corrective Services has information about each prisoner's location, and has the ability to centrally distribute material.

Upon release, we propose that the information should be used to change the address of those exiting the prison system. If not previously disqualified by the length of their sentence, they should be automatically reinstated as a general voter, and be asked if their previous address on the roll still applies.

For people who have been disqualified from voting due to the length of their sentence, we propose that they should be asked their anticipated residential address, and be automatically reinstated after a period of one month.

Additionally, we suggest that prisoners who are not on your roll, but appear to be eligible after you receive information from Corrective Services, be notified of their potential breach of their obligation to enrol, and be asked to do so.

Given the responsibility of the AEC to maintain an accurate electoral roll, do these proposals sound reasonable? We look forward to further discussions with you.

Please acknowledge upon receipt.

King regards,