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DEPARTMENT FOR
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

31 OCT 2007

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To:
The Chief Executive Officer Peter Severin
The Director of Custodial Services Maria Bordonni
The General Manager of Yatala Labour Prison Gary Oxford

Re : Camera Observations of Prisoners

We the undersigned wish to express our disapproval of the use of Camera Observations as set out in LOP 104 dated and signed by you on the 20/08/07. 16-10-07

This added responsibility has been forced upon the Control Room Staff with next to no consultation on the matter directly with the staff who are to carry out these duties. Because of the serious nature of these new procedures we believe that a consultative meeting with all Control Room Staff would have been paramount from the out-set.

We have undertaken these added duties under duress and with great reservations.

The Camera system you have installed is of poor visual quality and with no sound. It is virtually impossible to make out whether a prisoner is doing something to harm himself or not.

If the Department for Correctional Services was serious about the welfare of prisoners Camera Observations would cease and Constant Observations for all prisoners at risk would be reinstated.

However if Camera Observation are to continue they should not be carried out from the Control Room due to the busy work load already conducted by the staff in that area.

In the best interest for the safety and welfare of the Prisoners placed on this regime we believe that the best place for these Camera Observations to take place should be in G. Division as the response time when an emergency occurs will be quicker.

16/10/2007

Jan Wright
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JK
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- 1. copied
- 2. Dir Cent Serv - please draft a response
- 3. Dir H2 for info