

**Simon Corbell** MLA  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES  
MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Community Coalition on Corrections  
C/- Mr L Reynders  
Deputy Director  
ACT Council of Social Service  
PO Box 849  
MAWSON ACT 2607

Dear Mr Reynders

I am writing to invite the Community Coalition on Corrections to be a member of the Alexander Maconochie Centre's Community Reference Group, a community consultation committee I am establishing for the new prison.

The ACT's first prison, the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) at Hume, is nearing completion and will become operational in late 2008. At that time the Belconnen Remand Centre and the Symonston Temporary Remand Centre will be de-commissioned and the new Centre will begin repatriating ACT sentenced prisoners from New South Wales Corrective Services.

The AMC will have an operating philosophy based on human rights principles and will have as its focus the rehabilitation of prisoners in a safe, secure and humane environment to assist successful re-integration with society upon release. In the development of programs to help bring about these outcomes there will be an emphasis on prisoner family involvement and the engagement of stakeholders in the ACT community.

At an early stage in the planning for an ACT prison there was significant community involvement in the form of the ACT Prison Community Panel. The Panel produced a report in 2000 titled '*An ACT Prison - Getting it Right*', which proved to be a very useful source document. Since that time community consultation has continued although the focus has been on communication with individuals and stakeholder groups.

With the imminent commissioning of the AMC I consider it timely to re-establish a more formal mechanism for engaging the community. I have decided to establish the AMC Community Reference Group, which will comprise a number of relevant non-government organisations. I envisage that the Group will meet with the Superintendent and senior staff of the Centre quarterly to receive briefings on the operations of the Centre and for the Group to provide general feedback and comment as well as practical input and support in such areas, in particular, as prisoner rehabilitation and programs.

I would be very pleased to receive the nomination of a representative of your organisation and I look forward to hearing from you. I am proposing to host the inaugural meeting of the Group in March 2008 year and on acceptance of my invitation further details will be provided to you. Please advise Ms Helen Rowling of your organisation's nominated representative on telephone 6207 0205 or email, [Helen.Rowling@act.gov.au](mailto:Helen.Rowling@act.gov.au). Helen would also be very happy to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely

Simon Corbell MLA  
Attorney General

12 FEB 2008