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C/- ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)
PO Box 849
MAWSON ACT 2607

Community Coalition on Corrections

28 April 2010

Mr Jon Stanhope
Chief Minister
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA, ACT 2601

Dear Mr Stanhope,

Back on 23 December 2008, the Community Coalition on Corrections sent to your office, the attached letter seeking the Government's commitment to the key recommendations in the Coalition's study on mental health and the new prison. A copy of the recommendations were included with the letter of 23 December and a printed full study is attached.

That study and its recommendations are built around what is known about the intimate association between mental health and environmental factors acknowledged in such official publications as the Commonwealth's *Promotion, prevention and early intervention for mental health-a monograph*. We know that prisons are filled with people with mental health disorders. It completely undermines the Government's proclaimed intention that the new prison should rehabilitate offenders and reduce recidivism if how the prison operates damages the mental health of detainees.

The Coalition also wrote in December to the then Ministers responsible for Corrections and Health copying its letter to you. We wrote to you directly because the matters raised go beyond the portfolio responsibilities of either the Minister responsible for corrections or the Minister responsible for health. We are, of course, forwarding copies directly to them.

Apart from an acknowledgement dated 18 February 2009 from your Chief of Staff we do not have a record of the Coalition receiving a replay to these letters which, as you can see, were despatched over a twelve months ago.

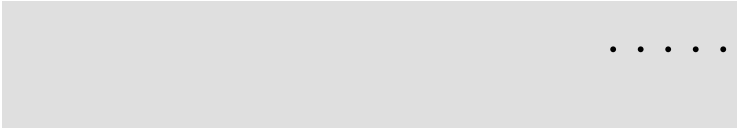
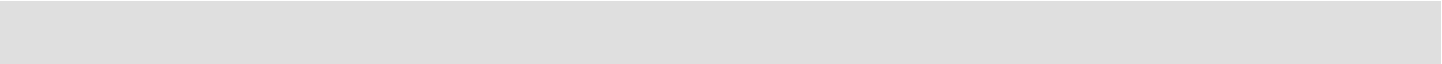
Yours sincerely,

(Bill Bush)
For the Community Coalition on Corrections
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www.correctionscoalitionact.or

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