



## Simon Corbell MLA

ATTORNEY GENERAL MINISTER FOR POLICE AND  
EMERGENCY SERVICES

MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

Ms Katherine Purnell Community  
Coalition on Corrections  
PO Box 849  
MAWSON ACT 2607

Dear Ms Purnell

I refer to your two letters dated 1 August 2007, one of which was replied to on 15 August 2007 and is included again for your reference.

I apologise for overlooking a response to the second letter, in which you request access to ministerial directions, corrections policies and operating procedures under the *Corrections Management Act 2007* (the Act) for the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).

I have previously advised your committee that the policies and procedures are being developed in consultation with the Human Rights Commission and the Ombudsman. It is not intended that these documents will be subject, in their development, to consultation with the public.

To provide a focus for community interest, I am proposing to establish a community reference group in 2008. This group will be invited to meet on a regular basis once the AMC becomes operational and will provide a range of community groups, such as yours, with the opportunity of receiving information first hand on the prison's operations, as well as the opportunity to have some input. I will contact you in due course to invite your organisation to participate in the Community Consultative Committee.

You also mentioned concern over policies and procedures that are not notifiable, and asked that they are closely defined in regulations or ministerial directions. Section 15 of the Act empowers the Chief Executive Officer (or her delegate) to exclude some policies or procedures from public notification on the legislation register if disclosure of the information may endanger public safety or undermines justice, security or good order at a correctional centre. Whilst there is no regulation in place in regard to this section, all policies and procedures are subject to judicial review. In addition, the policies and procedures that are not notifiable may also be scrutinised by Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Official Visitor, the Ombudsman, the Public Advocate or the Human Rights Commission.

Yours sincerely

Simon Corbell MLA  
Attorney General

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601  
Phone (02) 6205 0000 Fax (02) 6205 0535 Email [corbell@act.gov.au](mailto:corbell@act.gov.au)