

**Submission
No 20**

**INQUIRY INTO CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2006**

Organisation:

Name: Dr Stephen Allnut

Telephone:

Date Received: 27/07/2006

Subject:

Summary

Dr Stephen H Allnutt
M.B.Ch., B, FRCPC, FRANZCP
Forensic Psychiatry

27 July, 2006

RECEIVED

01 AUG 2006

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

GPSC's

Fax: 02 9230 3416

Dear Sir

RE : PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CRIMES (ADMINISTRATION SENTENCES) ACT 1999-REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL OF INMATES

I am a forensic psychiatrist with 13 years experience in the assessment and management of inmates and offenders both with and without mental illness. I am writing to express my concern about the proposed amendments to the Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999 with respect to the storage of reproductive material of inmates; and for other purposes.

As a medical doctor I am unable to understand the medical purpose that such legislation is expected to serve.

As a member of the public, having been neither consulted nor provided information about this important issue; I am left to ponder the underlying motive, which in my ignorance of the facts appears to be driven by a "pop" eugenic view that criminality is in some way an inherited trait and a misguided belief that by limiting the dissemination of the sperm of offenders, society will be spared a few more offenders.

It is my understanding that offenders have the right to access medical treatment while they are in prison and the right to bear offspring after they have served their sentences. This legislation suggests that offenders maintain this right as long as they are not diagnosed with a medical condition that might make having children difficult for them. It suggests that offenders who develop certain medical conditions will be doubly disadvantaged; that is suffering a serious medical condition and loses the option of pursuing an avenue that might enable them to have children. It leaves me wondering how long it will take after this legislation is passed (if passed) before a further proposal is suggested to sterilize offenders with mental illness; because the current proposal lies on the same spectrum of thought.

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It concerns me greatly that such legislation has been proposed with apparently little to no consultation with the medical community. It concerns me greatly that our government appears to have limited understanding of medical ethics and human rights.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Allnutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Dr Stephen Allnutt
FRCPC, FRANZCP, Fellowship in Forensic Psychiatry (Canada)
Senior Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist
Conjoint Senior Lecturer, UNSW