New Conditions Set For Prisoner Transfers

The Henderson Government will today introduce new legislation which sets out stringent conditions for the transfer of prisoners to and from other states and Territories.

Corrections Minister Gerry McCarthy said that previously Ministers were only able to assess a prisoner’s application for and interstate transfer based on their welfare.

“This new legislation closes that loophole, and brings the Territory into line with all other Australian jurisdictions when it comes to processing applications for transfers by prisoners,” Mr McCarthy said.

The *Prisoners (Interstate Transfer) Amendment Bill 2009* will broaden the range of factors that the Minister consider when deciding a request by a prisoner to be transferred to or from another state or territory.

It removes the limitation on the Minister’s discretion in relation to transfer requests and provides instead that the Minister takes into account:

- the welfare of the prisoner concerned;
- the administration of justice in the Territory or any other participating state or territory;
- the security and good order of any prison in the Territory or any other participating state or territory;
- the safe custody of the prisoner concerned;
- the protection of the community in the Territory or any other participating state or territory;
- any other matter the Minister considers relevant.

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