



Department of Justice and Community Safety

Corrections Victoria

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Justice Action
Trades Hall
Level 2, Suite 204,
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SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Justice Action team

Victorian prisoners' access to the internet by third parties

I refer to the statements on your Justice Action website in relation to the interactive prisoner website iExpress, to the effect that -

'Today' contacted the Corrective Services Department of each state and territory in regards to iExpress. Their responses were unanimous. Each Department found that the iExpress website does not constitute a breach under any policies and procedures as it is conducted by an independent third party...

and, in reporting the Department of Justice and Community Safety's (formerly the Department of Justice and Regulation's) position -

Victorian prisoners do not have access to the internet and cannot upload or publish information themselves.

If a member of the public chooses to publish this sort of material on the internet, that's their business, but Corrections Victoria does not endorse or support it.

Our staff carefully vet correspondence coming in and out of prison. They will censor or withhold any mail that's threatening or harassing, threatens prison security, or may contribute to unlawful activity.

Like the rest of the community, we would expect iExpress to seriously consider the effect that publishing this information has on victims of crime.

I am writing to advise that as a result of recent changes to the *Corrections Regulations* 2019, Victorian prisoners not only do not have access to the internet, but pursuant to Regulation 65(1)(p) it is now a prison offence for a prisoner to commission, arrange, enable or allow another person to use or access the internet on their behalf, unless it is for a purpose approved by the Commissioner or is otherwise exempt as set out in that regulation.



Accordingly, if it is discovered that Victorian prisoners have accessed the iExpress website directly or through a third party they are likely to be seen to have committed a prison offence and are likely to face disciplinary action.

In light of the above I ask that you amend the information on your website to bring it into line with Victoria's legislation, and that remove the statements about the position of 'each Department' and that which you attribute to the Department of Justice and Regulation.

Yours sincerely



Rod Wise
Deputy Commissioner, Custodial Operations