

This is a matter which should not be detracted from, merely because this discussion was initiated by a Prisoner, nor by the fact that it pertains to the rights of Prisoners.

It has been widely noted that there is an ever-increasing, decrease in organ and plasma donations in the past decade, and our ever-increasing need for donations [such as noted on Q+A last year, and also featured on the News; and with particular reference to Chris Bishop's *Organ Donation Member's Bill*].

It is my firm view that Prisoners should have the opportunity to be able to contribute to such an important cause, if they so choose to do so, and that this can enable Prisoners to give back to the Society that they have taken from.

Prisoners ought to be considered one of the most physically-healthy *organs of society* – our diets are restricted, nation-wide policies have been implemented to include more healthy alternatives on our weekly buy-up's [P119's]; strict-policies ensure that drug-use is not tolerated (including random drug-testing); smoking has been banned from Prisons for a number of years now; and the majority of prisoners keep themselves fit by exercising every day.

This of itself, should make Prisoners prime candidates for donations as aforesaid.

As the NZ Blood Service Chief Executive [Sam Cliffe] was noted saying in an article in the NZ Herald,² *mobile clinics used to be sent to prisons more than 20 years ago, but that stopped because of issues such as the high level of communicable disease in the prison population, including hepatitis.*

It should now be recognised that the health and hygiene standards have improved in our Prisons over the last two decades, and that starting a blood drive / donation initiative up, will promote the health and well-being of Prisoners, and to identify those whom may have such communicable diseases, and to assist them in getting the help in which they otherwise wouldn't have known that they needed.

Further, as a prisoner serving a life-sentence, it has not escaped me that my ability to father a child has severely depreciated due to my circumstances [and those of many other long-serving prisoners].

I am of the view that long-serving / life Prisoners, should be provided with the opportunity to be able to donate semen, if they so choose to, without any sort of monetary gain. This process could be applied in such circumstances, as to allow a Prisoner to father a child with their partner on the outside, through artificial-insemination, or to donate to the general process.

Both of these applications would enable those prisoners [who otherwise may not get an opportunity to father a child], to do that which is inherent in our nature.

And further, in and of itself, this could help deter young males away from re-offending, by having the opportunity to establish a Family – and himself as a contributing Member in the Community.

Thank you for your time and consideration therein.³

If you support this issue – SPREAD THE WORD – even if you don't fully support it, start up a dialogue... this is an important issue that needs to be discussed, and shouldn't be swept away due to the stigmatism attached to Prisoners as a whole!!!!

#PrisonersRightToDonate

Thank you for your assistance in enabling me to set-up an iexpress page, please find attached 7 coloured photographs to be included.

² The New Zealand Herald, Kiwis won't support prisoners fathering children: Corrections Minister Louise Upston, Thursday May 4 2017

³ A copy being sent to the following Parties: Labour, National, Green, NZ First, Act, Maori and United Future