



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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INSPECTOR OF CUSTODIAL SERVICES BILL PASSES PARLIAMENT

The bill establishing an Inspector of Custodial Services has passed the NSW Parliament, Attorney General and Minister for Justice Greg Smith SC announced today.

The Inspector of Custodial Services Bill 2012 has passed through both the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council without amendment.

“The legislation will enable the appointment of an inspector who will be a champion for prisons and prison officers,” Mr Smith said.

“The appointment of an Inspector of Custodial Services will deliver on another of the NSW Government’s election commitments.”

The Inspector will have jurisdiction over all correctional facilities, including public and private sector prisons and juvenile justice centres, court custody centres, police cells managed by Corrective Services NSW, transitional centres, prisoner transport and support services.

The independent watchdog will be able to review correctional and juvenile justice facilities at any time and make recommendations about issues of concern.

The Inspector will be required to:

- report on each juvenile justice facility at least once every three years;
- report on each adult correctional facility at least once every five years;
- conduct additional inspections at the request of a government minister; and
- provide an annual report to Parliament and the Minister for Justice.

“It will be an offence to give a false statement to an Inspector or to hinder their investigations and the law will protect whistle-blowers,” Mr Smith said.

An Inspector will be appointed for a five-year term before the end of the year.