

FACT SHEET

Corrections Amendment (Treatment of Sex Offenders) Bill 2014

The *Corrections Amendment (Treatment of Sex Offenders) Bill 2015* makes amendments to the *Corrections Act 1997* by requiring that a notice or assessment that is given to the Parole Board concerning a sex offender prisoner's participation or non-participation in appropriate treatment, is a matter that the Parole Board is required to consider under section 72(4) of the *Corrections Act 1997* when determining whether or not to release the prisoner on parole.

The Bill also amends the *Corrections Regulations 2008* by providing that remission of sentence is not to be granted to a sex offender prisoner by the Director of Corrective Services, if the prisoner has been given a reasonable opportunity to participate in appropriate treatment and the prisoner has either chosen not to participate in the treatment, or has chosen to participate in the treatment but participation has been unsatisfactory.

If the Director is satisfied on reasonable grounds that appropriate treatment is available for a sex offender prisoner, the Director is required to give that prisoner a reasonable opportunity to participate in the treatment, except where:

- (i) the prisoner is medically or psychologically unfit to participate in the treatment;
- (ii) the prisoner is not cognitively capable of participating in the treatment;
- (iii) there is insufficient time for the prisoner to complete the treatment; or
- (iv) the prisoner's participation could compromise the safety, security or good order of the prison.

The Director is also required to inform the prisoner that non-participation or unsatisfactory participation will prevent the prisoner from being granted a remission of sentence, and that participation, non-participation or unsatisfactory participation will be taken into consideration by the Parole Board, if the Board is required to determine whether the prisoner should be released on parole.

A written assessment in respect to the prisoner's participation will be provided to Board by the Director to assist the Board in its determination. If a sex offender prisoner chooses not to participate in appropriate treatment, notice of this choice and the relevant particulars will also be provided to the Board.