



MLU15/01346

\ October 2015

Dr John Paget  
Inspector of Custodial Services  
GPO Box 6  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Dr Paget

### Report on Lifers

I refer to your letter of 15 September 2015 and the final of your report entitled *Lifers: Classification and regression*.

I can provide the following advice in response to the recommendations in the Report. I note the responses will be published on your website.

#### **Recommendation 1**

**The Inspector recommends that CSNSW classification system review does not compromise the objectivity and integrity of the classification system.**

Supported. Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) is progressing a review of the classification system. This is a complex task and will require changes to the Offender Integrated Management System as well as re-writing classification manuals to provide guidance to staff. It is anticipated the review will be completed by the end of June 2016 after which operational changes to the system can be implemented.

#### **Recommendation 2**

**The Inspector recommends that CSNSW should, in regressing inmates managed by the Serious Offenders Review Council, act in accordance with the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Regulation 2014*.**

Supported.

#### **Recommendation 3**

**The Inspector recommends that CSNSW should review the regression of the 12 inmates who are the subject of this report to ensure compliance with the *Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Regulation 2014*.**

Noted. The classification of these inmates will be reviewed after the inquiry into the *Security classification and management of inmates sentenced to life imprisonment*, currently being conducted by the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Law and Justice has been completed.

**Recommendation 4**

**The Inspector recommends that CSNSW develop its communication strategies to enable an improved understanding of the correctional system for victims.**

Supported. CSNSW has initiated twice-yearly meetings with family members of the victims of murder, to provide information on the correctional system and discuss concerns.

The forms, letters and fact sheet used by CSNSW to communicate with victims are being reviewed with the expectation that they will be revised by the end of October 2015.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Corcoran', with a stylized flourish at the end.

KEVIN CORCORAN  
ACTING COMMISSIONER