

15 January 2015

The Hon John Dowd
President
Community Justice Coalition
PO Box 345
BROADWAY NSW 2007

Dear John

2015 State Election Prisons Questionnaire

I refer to your request for response to the Community Justice Coalition's comprehensive assessment of the problems and limitations in prisons policy and your questionnaire on prisons for the upcoming election.

Successive governments have overseen increases in prison population and introduced measures that undermine basic justice principles. I opposed changes that have reduced the presumption of innocence, imposed mandatory sentencing and reduced access to legal help.

Government fails to provide health and welfare services to prevent problems and support people with a disability or illness, or address poverty, discrimination and exclusion.

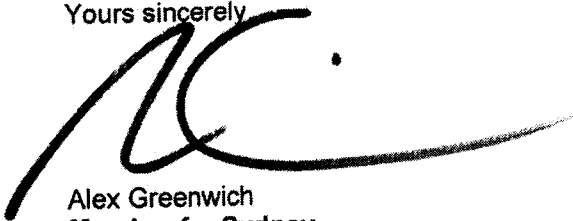
I support reform to achieve better economic and social outcomes for both the community and prisoners through a focus on early intervention, rehabilitation and restoration. I support programs and policies to address the specific circumstances of Indigenous, female, migrant/refugee and young prisoners, along with those who have a disability, cultural and language barriers, mental illness or substance use problem. I support programs that support families of prisoners.

More help must be provided for people leaving prison to get work and an income, to establish and maintain a home and be full members of the community.

I oppose privatisation of prisons, and support strong oversight agency powers to ensure human rights and fair treatment.

As an Independent, it is unlikely that I will be in a position to implement policy and program changes, or control numbers on the floor of Parliament. Notwithstanding, I support the Community Justice Coalition's reform program and am committed to promoting these measures should I be re-elected.

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney

