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**Date:** Wednesday, 1 September 2021 at 10:47 am

**To:** Sophie McNeill <[REDACTED]>

**Cc:** JHFMHN-Comms <[JHFMHN-Comms@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:JHFMHN-Comms@health.nsw.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Questions from Human Rights Watch

Hi Sophie,

The statement below was issued yesterday:

**Please attribute the following response to a Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network (the Network) spokesperson:**

The Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network is working closely with Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) and Youth Justice NSW (YJNSW) to manage positive COVID-19 cases across NSW custodial settings.

The Network, CSNSW and YJNSW are testing for COVID-19, isolating cases and contact tracing to detect and isolate close contacts to prevent further transmission.

We are also working together to roll out rapid antigen testing (RAT) across NSW prisons, youth justice centres and police cells to give us a fast and effective way of identifying potential cases.

The Network's protocol is to move positive adult COVID-19 cases to a central location at the Silverwater Correctional Complex, where they can be kept separate from the rest of the prison population, their care can be properly managed and they can be near a tertiary hospital in case it is needed.

The privately managed prisons, such as Parklea Correctional Centre, are responsible for managing their COVID-19 patients locally with assistance from the Network as appropriate. Healthcare at Parklea is provided by St Vincent's Correctional Health.

The Network has been vaccinating staff and patients since March 2021 in line with Commonwealth and NSW public health advice. To protect our staff and patients, we are ramping up our vaccination program over the coming weeks.

\* The Network has delivered vaccinations to staff and patients across NSW.

- 21 per cent of patients in custody are fully vaccinated; 42 per cent have had one dose
- 75 per cent of Network staff are fully vaccinated; 84 per cent have had one dose
- 41.3 per cent of CSNSW staff are vaccinated; 53.5 per cent have had one dose

The number of cases at any given centre will fluctuate, because of the movement of prisoners coming into custody, and the policy to move all positive cases from other NSW Corrective Services prisons to Silverwater.

\*\*The Network is currently managing 49 COVID-19 positive cases – 13 of these cases are associated with the Parklea outbreak and the other 36 cases acquired COVID-19 in the community and were identified as positive when they entered custody. These cases are not part of any prison outbreak and have not transmitted the virus to any other inmates or staff members.

The Network takes the health and wellbeing of prisoners extremely seriously and over the last 18 months has prepared so that prisoners and staff are protected in the event of an outbreak.

We quarantine all new arrivals into Corrective Services facilities from the general prison population for 14 days, use comprehensive PPE, and conduct regular symptom screening and testing.

\*These figures are accurate as at 27 August and are updated weekly.

\*\*These figures are accurate as at 30 August.