

STATE CHAPLAINCY BOARD - CORRECTIONS
POLICY - VISITING RELIGIOUS RESOURCE PEOPLE

Introduction:

In the exercise of pastoral care of prisoners, Chaplains or other staff within a particular center may discern the need for particular religious practitioners other than Chaplains to enter a particular Centre and provide a religious service or program.

Such visitors may, for example, assist the Chaplain in facilitating a Bible Study or Sunday services, or provide a Church service on a Sunday when a Chaplain may be unavailable. Chaplaincy Teams or Centers may also receive requests from various Churches and groups seeking to present a religious program (i.e. Christian bands and singing groups, or those with particular faith based self help type programmes) within a Centre.

There may also be a need where there are a significant number of Prisoners who are of another recognised faith other than Christianity. In such instances there may be a need on particular Holy Days or festivals to invite a recognised spiritual leader of that faith into the Center to conduct an appropriate service. (i.e. Muslims and the Month of Ramadan)

In these instances, there needs to be a clear policy and guidelines in place to ensure that the security of the Center is not compromised, that such visitors are in a safe environment, and that the process is conducted with integrity.

Process and procedure:

Requests, should in the first instance, preferably be made to the Coordinating Chaplain, who will in turn notify the Chaplaincy team and Center Management as soon as possible upon receiving such a request. Should it happen that the request is made directly to Centre Management, it is hoped that management will inform the Coordinating Chaplain as soon as possible. Management or their agent will then process such a request in consultation with the Chaplaincy Team via the Team Coordinator.

Criteria for assessment:

In evaluating such a request, the following should be considered:

- * The genuineness of the request.
- * The appropriateness & authenticity of such a visit or programme.
- * What community recognition & endorsement does the programme have?
- * Is there an identified need amongst the Prisoner population?
- * Are there any security issues?
- * Will there be an issue with operational staffing?
- * What provisions need to be made to create security awareness for visitors?
(this will depend on the security rating of the center)
- * Security needs in relation to equipment that groups or visitors may seek to bring into the Centre such as:
 - P.A. equipment
 - Study materials
 - Liturgical artifacts such as candles - elements for communion etc.