



OMBUDSMAN

for the

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

PRESS RELEASE

Ombudsman forced to use powers to table report in the Legislative Assembly.

“Having issued the final report into my investigation into the alleged misuse of telephone monitoring equipment at Alice Springs Correctional Centre, I consider that the Commissioner for Correctional Services has not taken steps which are appropriate or reasonable in the context of the recommendations made in my report,” Ombudsman Mr Boyce said.

“I am of the strong belief that Correctional Services must demonstrate a willingness to both its employees and the public generally to acknowledge that it failed to take appropriate administrative actions. Correctional Services must advise its employees and the public of the actions it has now taken to ensure a similar situation does not recur if it values employee satisfaction, fairness, honesty, integrity and standards of excellence.”

The Ombudsman, after receiving a number of complaints from several Alice Springs Correctional Centre (ASCC) prison officers alleging that the ASCC had used a telephone monitoring system to monitor and record incoming and outgoing calls inappropriately, conducted an investigation into the allegations. A report, containing a number of recommendations was provided to the Commissioner of Correctional Services, however, the Commissioner did not agree with a number of those key recommendations. The Ombudsman has now had a report tabled in the Legislative Assembly outlining his concerns arising from the investigation and the Commissioner's response to those concerns.

Full report available at: www.omb-hcsc.nt.gov.au

Ombudsman available for interview, please contact Marian Trobianni on (08) 8999 1978.