



PUBLIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

General Secretary Stewart Little
President Kylie McKelvie
ABN 83 717 214 309

In reply, please quote: GDC:vv

Ms Melanie Hawyes
Executive Director
NSW Justice
Juvenile Justice
20 Lee Street
SYDNEY NSW 2001

By email: melanie.hawyes@justice.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Hawyes,

Re: Occupational Violence in Juvenile Justice

The Association has been contacted by frustrated members who have advised that after the "*king hit*" and hospitalisation of a member at Frank Baxter JJC on Monday last week, further assaults have occurred this week at other Centres.

The Association has been informed that this week at Cobham three workers were assaulted by two detainees, with at least one worker being assaulted in the head. The worker left a significant amount of blood in the workplace and was taken to the hospital where he required 10 stitches, whilst another assaulted worker was bitten. The alleged perpetrators are detainees with a long term history of transgressions in the Juvenile Justice system and non-observance of directions.

The Association has also been informed that a worker at Riverina JJC was assaulted twice. The first assault being at the breakfast routine where he was assaulted with a plastic knife. We were informed that he was charged with assault by the Police, but we understand that he still attended his motorbike program. He then returned to the lunch routine on the same day and further assaulted the worker again by throwing a cup.

Whilst these assaults are alarming in themselves, the Association's concerns are more manifest in that there appears to be virtually no consequence regime as a control, thereby encouraging violence against workers and other detainees.

We also have alleged reports of management advocating with NSW Police, after an assault on staff to keep the adult detainees in Juvenile Justice, rather than adult correctives services where there are more controls in place to prevent the risk of assault on staff.

Additionally, it appears that whilst controls such as extra staff (including YOCS), restraint belts, cuffs, cell extraction technics, and leg cuffs can be used in DRMP, there appears to be a reluctance to continue these controls for any extensive period of more than a few days, thus putting the safety of staff and others at further risk.

Whilst isolated violent incidents could be put down to local case by case basis scenarios, these outcomes appear to be State-wide.

The Association is requesting information on what proactive steps the Department is taking to ensure the safety of staff and others and prevent workers from being continuously assaulted by detainees. We request an urgent consultation meeting with yourself regarding our serious concerns with occupational violence in the workplace.

I can be contacted on 92200906 to discuss these matters.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GINO DI CANDILO', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

GINO DI CANDILO
for **Stewart Little**
General Secretary

5 April 2019