

Message from the Minister

Today, I am pleased to announce that Corrective Services NSW staff will be better protected following an assault, after the Mandatory Disease Testing Bill 2020 was passed through both houses of NSW Parliament.

This now means that a Mandatory Testing Order will be issued immediately if you are exposed to bodily fluid as a result of a deliberate action. The subject of the order will be required to provide a blood sample if there is a risk the worker could contract a disease.

To be attacked by the offenders you supervise and manage every day is completely disgusting and unnecessary. Not only is the act traumatising but it can take months for the results of blood testing to be returned, causing excessive amount of stress and anxiety for victims and your families.

The new law will now significantly reduce the time it takes to find out if a Corrective Services staff member has been exposed to a blood-borne disease like HIV, hepatitis B or hepatitis C, from months to days.

A Mandatory Testing Order will require the subject of the order to provide a blood sample within two days or face a maximum penalty of more than \$10,000 and/or 12 months' imprisonment.

As Minister for Corrections, I have always been committed to bringing the Mandatory Disease Testing Bill before NSW Parliament. You all deserve to feel safe, protected and supported and today, we achieved an important milestone on your behalf.

I would like to thank both Commissioner Severin, Stewart Little from the Public Service Association and Nicole Jess from the POVB for their patience in supporting the NSW Government to secure this Bill.

Today has been a major victory for us all.

Anthony Roberts

Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections