

CCC EXHIBIT

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Mr. Samay Zhouand
Office of the Chief Inspector
Queensland Corrective Services
Brisbane, Queensland 4001

Dear Inspector Zhouand,

I am writing in response to your letter dated March 15, 2018 and apologize for the delay in our response.

We sincerely welcome your efforts to investigate the issues raised in Human Rights Watch's report, *"I Needed Help, Instead I Was Punished: Abuse and Neglect of Prisoners with Disabilities in Australia*, and we would be very happy to clarify specific issues that pertain to Queensland rather than Western Australia though many of the issues in the report are documented in prisons in both states.

In particular for Queensland, areas we deem to be priorities for further investigation from your office are:

- violence against prisoners with disabilities including bullying, harassment, racism, physical, and sexual abuse from fellow prisoners as well as staff,
- the use of solitary confinement on prisoners with disabilities, particularly psychosocial (mental health) or intellectual disabilities, in detention, crisis or safety units, and maximum-security units,
- the use of the prisoner-carer model.

Since our research is based on confidential interviews, we are unable to share names of specific individuals or identify individuals from specific prisons. In order to protect prisoners with disabilities and prison staff who spoke to us from retaliation, we had to withhold identifying information, such as location, interview date, or distinctive disabilities from the report.

However, we would be happy to contribute to your investigation by answering any questions you may have in writing or over the phone.

Kriti Sharma, Human Rights Watch's disability rights researcher and author of the report, is best placed to answer these questions. She is available for a phone briefing to provide you with any additional you may need on the conditions and

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systemic abuses we documented in Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre, Wolston Correctional Centre, Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre, Lotus Glen Correctional Centre, Woodford Correctional Centre, Southern Queensland Correctional Centre, Helena Jones Community Custody Centre, and the Princess Alexandra Hospital Secure Unit. Kriti can be contacted directly at kriti.sharma@hrw.org.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Elaine Pearson
Australia Director
Human Rights Watch