
MEDIA RELEASE



John Robertson MLC

Minister for Corrective Services
Minister for Public Sector Reform
Special Minister of State

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MINISTER ISSUES WARNING TO PRISON VISITORS Horse tranquilisers, mobile phones, false ID papers and weapons seized

Since January 1 2008, over 1000 prison visitors have been banned and 176 charged with criminal offences following attempts to smuggle contraband into NSW prisons, revealed Minister for Corrective Services John Robertson today.

Among the items seized from prison visitors are guns, knives, cannabis, heroin, Ice, syringes, mobile phones, horse tranquilisers and false ID papers.

Minister for Corrective Services John Robertson issued a warning to prison visitors that if they attempt to smuggle in contraband they will be caught.

"The message is, if you don't want to end up on the other side of the prison bars, don't attempt to traffic contraband into NSW gaols," said Mr Robertson.

"If you're a prison visitor trying to smuggle contraband, our officers will find it, you will be banned and, where appropriate you will face criminal charges."

Mr Robertson said prison visitors will try anything to get prohibited items into correctional facilities.

"A few weeks ago we had a mother trying to smuggle syringes in her pram and the day before a man was caught with five balloons of illicit drugs smuggled in his mouth.

"Other attempts this year include a woman with a phone in her underwear and several attempts to leave contraband items in bins and bathrooms."

Mr Robertson says the State Government is continuing to stay one step ahead of prison visitors and inmates.

"Our Drug Detection Dogs screen around 3000 prison visitors a month – this is just one of many strategies the NSW Government has in place to keep prisons safe and free from contraband."

Items seized on prison visitors since January 1, 2009:

Prohibited substances:

92.69g suspected cannabis
5 balloons suspected cannabis
7.5g white powder
31 tablets (white/brown)
16 mirtzapine tablets
0.6g Ice
3 Valium tablets
1.1g Xanax pills
1.2g Serapax pills
1.2g Heroin
1.7g Buprenorphine
180ml methadone, plus
additional quantity of methadone,
and clear liquid in 'centrum' bottle

Illicit substances cont.:

Equine medication 'oral
broncho dilating agent for
horses'
½ bottle vodka
½ wine cask
1 can of rum and coke
2 bottles West Coast Cooler

Drug paraphernalia:

93 syringes
6 bongos/crack pipe
3 balloons
4 spoons
40 deal bags
3 large quantities alco wipes

Weapons:

Driving knife
2 pocket knives
2 other knives
Scissors

Other:

Vodafone sim card
4 mobiles
Memory card
\$10 "hello" calling card
False ID papers
Stolen car

(2008 stats overleaf)

Items seized on prison visitors from January 1 to December 31, 2008:

Prohibited substances:

248.59g suspected cannabis
0.7g white powder
8 horse tranquilisers
18 ecstasy tablets
70.5 tablets (unidentified)
3.06g tablets
14 MDA tablets
2 serapax
Valium package
0.5g testosterone tabs
2 bottles of methadone
220mls methadone
Methadone tablets
5 balloons (unknown substance)
4 LSD tablets
3.2g unknown rocks
0.6g white crystals
4g Ice
0.7g Heroin
4 cans bundy rum and cola
640ml bottle bundy rum and cola
8 premixed alcohol drinks

Weapons:

10 knives
9mm pistol with 15 rounds
.22 reuger rifle
Ammunition

Drug paraphernalia:

67 syringes
5 bongs
4 cones
50 resealable plastic bags
Crystal meth filter paper x 2

Other:

7 mobile phones
4 sim cards
12 green singlets
15ml bottle nail polish
1 packet body lotion and 3 containers of lip gloss
2x \$100 notes
21x \$50 note
15 tattoo needles and vial of ink
443ml can of JB oil with screw bottom
Electronic scales
\$8,465.64 cash
1 false ID
48 cigarettes
1 packet cigarettes
1 lighter
2 ipods
5 porn dvds
Camera and memory card
Can of curry powder

Visitors banned & charged

2008:

Visitors banned 786
Visitors charged 140

2009:

Visitors banned 250
Visitors charged 36