

# We're inviting Victorians to share their experiences of custody

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An independent Review is currently underway, examining the culture within the adult custodial corrections system in Victoria. It will draw on research, data and direct testimony to develop recommendations for a safer, fairer, more modern and more capable corrections system.

We hope that you can help us spread the word about the Review within your networks.

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## About the Review

Announced by the Minister for Corrections in June 2021, the Cultural Review of the Adult Custodial Corrections System is being led by an Expert Panel made up of three independent advisors and the Review Lead, Kristen Hilton, former Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner. The Expert Panel members are:

- ▶ Tim Cartwright – former Acting Chief Commissioner, Victoria Police, and the inaugural Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor
- ▶ Jill Gallagher AO – CEO, Victorian Aboriginal Community Health Organisation, and former Victorian Treaty Advancement Commissioner
- ▶ Greg Smith AM – former Deputy President, Fair Work Commission.

The Review will run for approximately 12 months. During that time, we will talk to as many people as possible – both custodial staff and people in custody and their families. Hearing their stories will help us understand their experiences in Victorian prisons and correctional centres and what changes can make them safer and more inclusive for everyone.

## What the Review will examine

- ▶ What systems and processes should prisons and correctional centres improve or put in place to make sure all people are safe while they are in custody, including groups vulnerable to unfair treatment such as Aboriginal people as well as women, LGBTIQ people, people with disabilities, older people, and people from different cultural backgrounds?
- ▶ What can prisons and correctional centres do to ensure cultural safety for Aboriginal people when they are in custody to help them stay connected to culture and family, ensure they are treated with respect, and prevent racism, discrimination and other unfair treatment?

[See the full terms of reference](#)

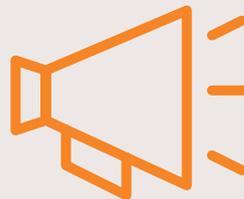
### How you can help us promote participation in the Review

If you are in contact with people currently in custody, people who have been in custody previously, or their families or support people, we would appreciate any support you can provide to encourage them to participate in the Review.

You might:

- ▶ publish a short news story about the Review in your newsletter or on your website
- ▶ mention the Review in any staff or volunteer briefings you hold
- ▶ post about the Review on your social media channels.

The kit includes some sample messaging and artwork you can use to promote the Review.



## Who can participate in the Review

We want to hear from as many people as possible. Talking to us will help the Review make recommendations to make Victorian prisons and correctional centres safer for anyone who works there and for people in custody.

We hope to hear from:

- ▶ people who are currently in custody
- ▶ people who have been in custody previously
- ▶ family members, friends and support persons of people who are or have been in custody.

We are looking to hear about experiences that occurred within the last five years (2016 to 2021).

We are committed to ensuring any contact you have with the Review will be respectful, supportive and culturally safe.

## Key information

**Phone** 1800 431 276

**Website** [correctionsreview.vic.gov.au](https://correctionsreview.vic.gov.au)

**Email** [correctionsreview@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:correctionsreview@justice.vic.gov.au)

### How people currently in custody can contact the Review

- ▶ **Call the Review hotline**  
Dial \*#10 on the Prisoner Telephone System
- ▶ **Post a written submission**  
Corrections Cultural Review, DX 210480, Melbourne VIC

*Calls and mail to the Review will not be monitored by Corrections Victoria*

## Sample newsletter or website article

### Share your story with the Corrections Cultural Review

People in custody have the right to feel safe and be treated fairly. Prisons and correctional centres must make sure they respect peoples' human rights including their right to humane treatment when deprived of their liberty.

If you have spent time in a Victorian prison or correctional centre, or if one of your family members has, the Cultural Review of the Adult Custodial Corrections System wants to hear your story.

Led by an independent Expert Panel, the Review is an important opportunity to help create a safer and more respectful corrections system – one that upholds the rights of every person in custody, that promotes rehabilitation, and that provides support for the needs of each individual.

To participate in the Review, people currently in custody can make a written submission or call the Review hotline (\*#10 on the Prisoner Telephone System). From November to February, the Expert Panel and Review team will be visiting all prisons and correctional centres to speak directly with participants about the Review.

People who have been in custody previously, family members and support people can make a written submission or share a voice recording about their experiences. They can also express their interest in a confidential interview – but please note, due to demand, the Review may not be able to interview all interested participants.

Find out more about the Review at [correctionsreview.vic.gov.au](http://correctionsreview.vic.gov.au) or call the Review hotline 1800 431 276.

## Sample social media content

### Post 1

If you've spent time in a Victorian prison, or if one of your family members has, the Cultural Review of the Adult Custodial Corrections System wants to hear your story. Led by an independent Expert Panel, the Review is an important opportunity to help create a safer and more respectful corrections system. Call 1800 431 276 or visit [correctionsreview.vic.gov.au](http://correctionsreview.vic.gov.au).

### Post 2

Submissions are now open for the Cultural Review of the Adult Custodial Corrections System – an independent review into the culture in Victorian prisons. Share your experience in writing or by calling 1800 431 276. [correctionsreview.vic.gov.au](http://correctionsreview.vic.gov.au)

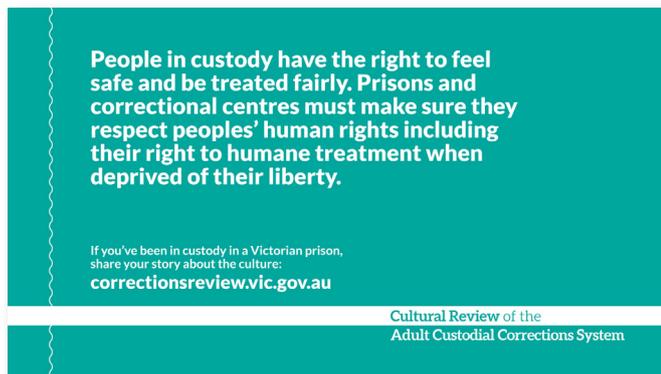
### Post 3

An independent review into the culture in Victoria's prisons and correctional centres is underway – and they want to hear from people who have spent time in prison and their family members. The Review will focus on ensuring the system is safe for people in custody, promotes rehabilitation and caters to their needs. [correctionsreview.vic.gov.au](http://correctionsreview.vic.gov.au)

## Sample artwork

Click each tile to download.

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### Instagram



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