



Ombudsman Tasmania

THURSDAY 03 AUGUST 2023

OMBUDSMAN TASMANIA
MR RICHARD CONNOCK

Community call for expressions of interest for Prison Official Visitor roles.

Public expressions of interest are being called for people with relevant experience who wish to be considered for appointment as Prison Official Visitors.

Prison Official Visitors is a unique role where members of the community who have relevant experience can apply to visit prisons and enquire into the treatment, behaviour and conditions of prisoners and detainees.

Ombudsman Tasmania Mr Richard Connock, who is the coordinating Official Visitor, said the visitors role is an important function of oversight in the context of prisoner and remandee rights under *The Corrections Act 1997* in Tasmania's prison system.

"Many people may not be aware of the role of Prison Official Visitors as a safeguard and checkpoint for prisoner welfare and conditions," said Mr Connock.

"The role includes monthly visits to one or more of the State's prisons and meeting with detainees to determine from an independent perspective the treatment of prisoners and remandees and the conditions within each facility," he said.

"Prison Official Visitors also play an integral role in assisting prisoners and detainees to raise and resolve concerns and complaints along with reporting any matters of concern identified during a visit," Mr Connock said.

Mr Connock said the current call for applicants is for two Prison Official Visitors – one to conduct visits in the south of the state and one for the Launceston Reception Prison.

"Interested applicants should possess excellent communication skills and an ability to relate to people from a wide range of backgrounds including adequate knowledge and understanding of custodial environments and prisoner rehabilitation," he said.

“A Prison Official Visitor is a specialist position well suited to people with the ability to exercise initiative, judgement and discretion within a sensitive environment and with an adherence and respect to confidentiality,” said Mr Connock.

“Prison Official Visitors receive remuneration at the rate of \$35 per hour and are reimbursed reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties such as travel costs,” said Mr Connock.

Interested applicants can find out more at [Prison Official Visitor](#)

ENDS

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