

8 March 2022

The Honourable Bill Johnston MLA  
Minister for Corrective Services  
9th Floor, Dumas House,  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Email: [Minister.Johnston@dpc.wa.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Johnston@dpc.wa.gov.au)

Dear Minister

### **AIR CONDITIONING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PRISONS**

I write to you regarding the conditions in Western Australian correctional facilities in the height of summer. As you are aware, the vast majority of prison cells in Western Australia are not air conditioned,<sup>1</sup> which is an unacceptable situation in one of the hottest jurisdictions in the world. This was sharply illustrated in recent reporting on the Roebourne Regional prison where the outside temperature exceeded 50 degrees Celsius.<sup>2</sup>

It is the view of the Law Society that the failure to provide air conditioning in Western Australian State run prisons is inhumane and a serious human rights issue.

I respectfully request that you take action to ensure that each of the State's correctional facilities is fit for purpose and all cells are air conditioned, prioritising those facilities in the Pilbara, Goldfields and the Kimberley.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Lee  
**President**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.oics.wa.gov.au/reports/thermal-conditions-prison-cells/key-findings/air-conditioning/>, noting these statistics are from 2015

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.watoday.com.au/national/western-australia/refusal-to-put-airconditioning-in-pilbara-prison-where-temperature-hit-50-5c-is-racist-als-20220113-p59o5i.html>