



PRESS RELEASE

President, Prison Officers' Association of Australasia **Perth** **Western Australia**

23rd January 2007

The vicious stabbing of a female prison officer, and injuries sustained by other officers, during gang related violence at Rimutaka Prison has been roundly condemned by the President of the Prison Officers' Association of Australasia, Keith Johnson.

“Such acts of wanton violence against staff going about their normal duties cannot and should not be tolerated. The stress caused to the staff who were injured and the long wait to see if a blood born disease may have been contracted during the incident is far beyond the expectations of normal employment. The Corrections Department has a duty of care to ensure that staff working in hostile environments are provided adequate protection and the ability to respond in a safe but decisive manner”.

“The frequency of attacks on prison officers should be of concern to the Corrections Department and they should be taking prompt action to protect their staff” Keith Johnson stated.

Keith Johnson
President
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