



Full body x-ray scanners

Fact sheet for visitors - Issued: 30 November 2021

Security screening in NSW correctional centres

Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) uses full body x-ray scanners (body scanners) for security screening in correctional centres. Body scanners are used in many prisons around the world to detect contraband.

This security screening tool will help ensure the safety of you, your loved ones, our staff and inmates by preventing contraband coming into correctional centres.

It can also help prevent inmates and visitors from being pressured into bringing contraband into correctional centres as it will be seen on the body scanners.

Departmental policies and procedures can be found in *Custodial Operations Policy and Procedures (COPP)* section [17.5 Body scanning](#).

What are body scanners?

Body scanners use a very low dose of x-ray to produce an image of the whole body to show items you may have on your person.

The radiation dose you will receive is minimal, and the dosage is comparable to a number of routine activities in the community. For example, 50 scans over 12 months is equivalent to the background radiation from a return international air flight.

You will be asked to declare if you have any contraband or unauthorised property on you (such as drugs, mobile phones or weapons).

Who can be scanned?

When you enter a correctional centre, you are agreeing to undergo each security screening procedure.



You have the right to refuse any security screening process, including body scanning.

However, if you refuse to be body scanned you will either be asked to leave the correctional centre or you may be offered a non-contact (box) visit if one is available.

Visitors also have the option to have a visit with an inmate via a video call. Information for booking a visit with an inmate via video is available at <https://correctiveservices.dcj.nsw.gov.au/csnsw-home/contact-and-visit-inmates/contact-an-inmate/video-calls.html>.

Your health and safety

In NSW, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) decides who can use body scanners and how they can be used.

Correctional officers operating body scanners have been trained and are issued a licence by the EPA.

The EPA has set the limit of radiation that a visitor to a correctional centre can receive from body scanning.

We will keep track of how many scans you have had to make sure your exposure to radiation from body scanning remains within the limits set.

There is no medical reason why a person cannot be screened using the body scanners. For example, if you are under 18 years of age, pregnant, or have a pace-maker you can still be body scanned.

CSNSW understands that some people may have concerns about the use of body scanners.

It is important that you inform correctional officers of your concern and any specific circumstances that you believe should be considered when you arrive at the correctional centre and before you begin any security screening process.

A correctional officer can then determine the best approach to security screening using methods suitable for your needs.

Scanning procedures

You may be asked to undergo a body scan and asked to remove your shoes, jacket and any bulky outerwear to ensure the most effective and efficient scan is achieved.

If the body scan does not show any suspicious objects, you may be permitted entry into the correctional centre.

If the body scan shows a suspicious

object, you may be refused entry into the correctional centre or offered a non-contact visit if one is available.

CSNSW staff are permitted to detain a visitor if prohibited items are found for up to 4 hours. In these cases, the NSW Police will be called to conduct further enquiries or searches.

You can watch a video to see how body scanning occurs in NSW correctional centres on the Department of Communities and Justice internet page at <https://correctiveservices.dcj.nsw.gov.au/>

Your privacy

All information produced by body scanning will be securely stored by CSNSW. Your body scan information can only be accessed by authorised persons.

Your information will not be given to anyone else unless authorised or required by law.

You can ask to access your personal information. For details on how to do this, please email infoandprivacy@justice.nsw.gov.au

Further information

For further information on body scanning processes please contact the correctional centre directly or email General Enquiries at GeneralEnquiries_CSNSW@justice.nsw.gov.au

