



PANSW
Police Association of NSW

**Media
Release**

Tuesday 24 March 2020

CAUTION ON MAINTAINING PUBLIC SAFETY

The Police Association of NSW is aware of today's reports around the potential early release of some prisoners from Correctional Centres in NSW due to the Covid19 pandemic.

"To release prisoners into the community at a time when all Government departments are under extreme pressure working in unprecedented circumstances potentially adds fuel to an already fast burning fire," PANSW President Tony King said.

"Something the serving officers we represent are acutely aware of is that not many first time offenders are in full time custody, and the full criminal history of a person may not be limited to the offence they are currently incarcerated for".

"There is no evidence of a bed shortage in our state's gaols and in fact a new large facility is ready to be opened on the North Coast".

"This is not a genie that can be put back in the bottle easily once it is opened, and victims and the general public's safety should never be compromised".

Media contact:

Stephen Olsen – PANSW Communications Coordinator | Phone: 0488 009 805
PANSW Facebook @pansw.org.au | Twitter @PoliceAssocNSW