

Full body x-ray scanning

Factsheet for visitors

Security screening in NSW correctional centres

Corrective Services NSW (CSNSW) uses full body x-ray scanners to maintain the safety and security of NSW correctional centres.

The devices are used in prisons around the world to stop contraband from getting into a facility.

The machines contribute to your safety as well as the safety of inmates, our staff and other visitors.

Screening visitors helps prevent you and your loved one in custody from being pressured by other inmates to bring contraband into a correctional centre

How do the body scanners work?

Body scanners use a very low dose of radiation to produce an image of your entire body. The image shows what someone may be trying to conceal.



Version: November 2023

Who needs to be scanned?

Body scanning is a condition of entry into NSW correctional centres. If you have booked an in-person visit, you must have a full body x-ray scan.

You have the right to refuse any security screening process, including a full body x-ray scan, but if you do you may be offered a non-contact visit or will be asked to leave the correctional centre. You also have the option of booking a video visit.

Who is exempt from being scanned?

There is no medical reason why you can't be screened by a full body x-ray scanner.

You can still be body scanned even if you:

- are under 18 years of age (a minor)
- are pregnant
- have an implanted medical device such as a pacemaker or cochlear implant
- are undergoing therapeutic radiation treatment.

CSNSW understands that you may have concerns about the use of body scanners. It is important to let correctional officers know about your concerns and any circumstances that you believe should be considered before you are screened.

Your health and safety

The NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) regulates the use of body scanners in NSW prisons.

The EPA has set annual limits on how much radiation exposure you can have from being scanned.

CSNSW staff are trained and issued a licence to use the equipment; and will answer any of your questions about dose limits.

You will be enrolled in the body scanner under your Visitor Index Number (VIN).

This helps staff monitor the number of scans you receive to ensure your exposure to radiation remains within the limits set.

Scanning procedure

CSNSW officers will explain the body scanning process to you. If your scan comes back clear, you will be allowed to proceed with your visit.

If you don't return a clear scan, you will be scanned again. If staff suspect that you may be carrying contraband, you may be refused entry or even be detained. CSNSW staff can detain you for up to four hours. NSW Police will also be contacted.

Your privacy

CSNSW securely stores any information collected as part of the body scanning process, including your images.

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



You can ask to access your personal information by emailing:
infoandprivacy@dcj.nsw.gov.au